

THE  
**Nonconformist.**

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XVII.—NEW SERIES, No. 590.]

LONDON: THURSDAY, FEB. 19, 1857.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED 6d.  
STAMPED ... 6d.

**ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.**

New Lecture by J. H. PEPPEY, Esq., on "OPTICAL ILLUSIONS," with very curious experiments, every Tuesday at Three, and Wednesday, and Friday, at Three and Eight.  
Lecture by Mr. G. A. COOPER, on "PRIESTLEY'S PATENT PIANOFORTE."  
Entire New Series of DISSOLVING VIEWS, illustrating the "TRAVELLER'S PORTFOLIO," daily, at Two.  
Second and most costly Series of Dissolving Views, illustrating "BLUE BEARD," with humorous and original Description by LEICESTER BUCKINGHAM, Esq., daily at Four and Nine.  
Re-engagement of AMOS FAIRBAIN, Esq., and the Misses BENNETT, for their Scottish Musical Entertainments, every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday Evenings at Eight.  
Admission to the whole, 1s.; Children and Schools, half-price.

**DEVONSHIRE-SQUARE CHAPEL.**  
BISHOPSGATE-STREET.—The Rev. J. H. HINTON'S  
FOURTH LECTURE—

SUBJECT—ON UNION TO CHRIST.  
On SUNDAY EVENING NEXT, Feb. 22, at Half-past Six.

**YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.**

The TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING will be held (P.V.) in EXETER HALL, on TUESDAY EVENING, Feb. 24, 1857.  
The Chair will be taken, by the Right Hon. the Earl of SHAFTESBURY, at Half-past Seven o'clock precisely.  
The Meeting will be addressed by Hon. and Rev. J. T. Pelham, M.A., Rector of Marylebone; Rev. William Landels, of the Baptist Church, Regent's-park; Rev. John Graham, of Craven Chapel; Rev. John H. James, of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Hackney-road; Rev. Newman Hall, L.L.B., of Surrey Chapel; Thomas H. Gladstone, Esq.  
The Committee earnestly solicit the attendance of Young Men, and the public generally.  
Tickets of admission may be had of Messrs. Nisbet and Co., 21, Berners-street; Bull, Hutton, and Co., Holles-street; Dalton's, Cooks-par-street; Westerton's, Knightsbridge; Cotes' Library, 120, Chancery; and at the Offices of the Association, 165, Aldersgate-street, City.  
W. E. SHIPTON, Secretary.

**HIBBERT TRUST.—TWO SCHOLARSHIPS.**

will be AWARDED on this FOUNDATION, after the EXAMINATION in NOVEMBER next, provided that the Candidates are declared to be duly qualified by the Examiners. The examination will take place at University Hall, Gordon-square, London, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, the 23rd, 24th, and 25th days of November, 1857. The names and addresses of all candidates must be sent to the Secretary, at University Hall, on or before the 1st October. Candidates will also be expected to send in satisfactory evidence of age, graduation, and other points, the particulars of which may be obtained on application to the Secretary.  
CHARLES J. MURCH, Secretary.  
University Hall, Gordon-square,  
February 16, 1857.

**URGENT CASE.—A respectable WIDOW**

and SIX YOUNG CHILDREN, the eldest about Twelve, have been left entirely unprovided for under the following circumstances: The husband and father returned from the East at the close of the war, in deep decline, and soon after died. He held a responsible situation; but, because connected with the "Turkish Contingent Service," no pension for his Widow could be obtained from the War Department, and no aid for his family from the Patriotic Fund. The Widow then submitted her case to the Queen, who, with characteristic benevolence, transmitted a donation from her private resources, and, in a sympathizing spirit, expressed her regret that it could not be repeated. To meet the necessities of this sad case, nothing remains but to make the appeal to a generous and humane public.  
The following gentlemen will furnish, when required, all requisite information, receive any Contributions with which they may be favoured, and become responsible as Trustees for the faithful application of any funds committed to their care: Rev. James Carile, D.D., L.L.D., Woolwich; Andrew Clark, Esq., M.D., Physician to the London Hospital, 53, Montague-place; Russell-square; Richard Mills, Esq., the Treasury, Whitehall; E. Bewglass, Esq., Milton House School, Woolwich; and Mr. W. J. Johnson, 131, Fleet-street, London.

**NON-PAROCIAL REGISTERS COMMISSION.**

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, SOMERSET HOUSE,  
January 14, 1857.

By virtue of a Commission issued by Her Majesty, for the purpose of inquiring into the state, custody, and authenticity of any Registers or Records of Births or Baptisms, Deaths or Burials, and Marriages lawfully solemnized, in England and Wales, other than the Parochial Registers, and which have not been inquired into by former Commissioners, and deposited in the custody of the Registrar-General, pursuant to the Act of 3 and 4 Vic., cap. 92; and also for inquiring what measures can be beneficially adopted for collecting and arranging any of such Registers or Records, and for depositing the same, or copies thereof, in the General Register Office, or for otherwise preserving the same; and also for considering the proper measures to be adopted for giving full force and effect, as evidence in Courts of Justice, to all such Registers as are found accurate and faithful, and for facilitating the production and reception of the same:—

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Commissioners are ready to receive Information and Applications from all Persons having possession of any such Registers or Records, with a view to the examination thereof; the result contemplated being a Legislative Provision to secure their safe preservation, to render them accessible, and to impart to them the same character of legal evidence with those already placed in the custody of the Registrar-General—an object obviously important to the general interest of the community, and especially to the religious denominations to which the Registers belong.

All Communications upon the subject must be addressed to "The Non-Parochial Registers Commissioners, General Register Office, Somerset House, London (W.C.)."  
By order of the Commissioners,  
JAMES T. HAMMACK, Secretary.

**BRITISH EMPIRE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.**

ELECTION FOR VACANCY IN DIRECTION.

The Members of the Company are earnestly requested to attend the ANNUAL MEETING on TUESDAY NEXT, at the LONDON COFFEE-HOUSE, LUDGATE-HILL, at Three o'clock, and record their Votes on behalf of

MR. HENRY COOPER,

of the firm of Messrs. Blyth, Son, and Cooper, of Chiswell-street, London, and Henry-street, Liverpool, the Candidate who has come forward at the request and with the support of the principal London Assurers.

Gentlemen willing to hold Proxies on behalf of Mr. Cooper, will oblige by forwarding their names, by Monday next, to his Committee Room, at the London Coffee-house, Ludgate-hill.

**BRITISH EMPIRE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, 32, NEW BRIDGE-STREET, BLACKFRIARS.**

The support of the Members is respectfully solicited in the re-election of the retiring Directors:—

Mr. C. BENNETT,  
Mr. F. BUNNELL,

Mr. J. R. BURTON,  
Mr. R. CARTWRIGHT,

who have been actively engaged in promoting the success of the Company from its commencement, and are eligible for re-election.

N.B.—The ELECTION takes place at the LONDON COFFEE-HOUSE, Ludgate-hill, on TUESDAY, 24th February, 1857, at Three o'clock.

**WARMINSTER.—Mr. STENT, Architect, Surveyor, and Auctioneer, has an OPENING for an ARTICLED PUPIL.**

G. B. SMITH, Printer, Bookseller, and Stationer, Chipping Norton, Oxon, is in WANT of a respectable well-educated YOUTH as an APPRENTICE. He will be treated as one of the family, and a premium required.

**TO GROCERS.—WANTED, a SITUATION as COUNTERMAN in town or country.**

Apply, S. B. Bell, Kildredon, Essex.

**TO GROCERS and PROVISION DEALERS.—WANTED, an efficient ASSISTANT, with good testimonials, to manage the PROVISION DEPARTMENT.**

Address, S. Barling, Farnham, Surrey.

**TO GROCERS and OTHERS.—WANTED, by a LAD, Fifteen years of age, a SITUATION as LIGHT PORTER, or in any capacity where he could render himself useful. Reference kindly permitted to his present employer, Mr. Hickmott, Post-office, Staplehurst, Kent.**

**TO DRAPERS' ASSISTANTS.—WANTED, an industrious, obliging, and conscientious YOUNG MAN in a GENERAL DRAPERY and OUTFITTING TRADE in the Country. Dissenter preferred.**

Address, stating age, salary, and reference, to Richard Whitley, Sittingbourne.

**TO MILLINERS.—WANTED, on the 1st March, a YOUNG PERSON as MILLINER, who thoroughly understands her business, and has been accustomed to a general trade.**

Apply, with full particulars, to F. G. Rubbra, Laceman, Argyle-street, Birkenhead.

**TO TAILORS' FOREMEN.—WANTED, a CUTTER for the Country. One who has a knowledge of the Military preferred.**

Replies, by letter, stating age, married or single, terms, and experience, that is, each situation he may have occupied as a Cutter, to A. B., Messrs. Chaffey and Son, Queen-street, Chesham.

**TO PARENTS and GUARDIANS.—In a healthy part of London an APPRENTICE is required to the GENERAL IRONMONGERY. He will be able to gain a thorough knowledge of the business, combined with the comforts of a Christian and domestic home. Premium required.**

Address, A. B., 314, Upper Thames-street (E.C.)

**WANTED, an ENGAGEMENT as HOUSEKEEPER in a Christian family, by a LADY who has a thorough knowledge of domestic management. Would be found an acquisition where trust and confidence are required. Unexceptionable references.**

Address, J. M., "Nonconformist" Office, 69, Fleet-street, London.

**WALTHAMSTOW.—To be LET or SOLD (Freehold), Nos. 1 and 2, GROSVENOR COTTAGES, GROSVENOR RISE, containing two sitting and three bedrooms, kitchen and wash-house, with garden. Water on the premises, and fitted up with every convenience. Rent 25l. Price 700l., of which 500l. may remain on mortgage.**

To view, and for further particulars, apply to P. C., at No. 2 as above.

**ORIENTAL and BIBLICAL LANGUAGES.**

The Rev. G. SMALL gives INSTRUCTION in Hindustani, Sanscrit, Persian, and Bengali, as also in Hebrew, and the Remnants of Arabic and Syriac, at his Class Room, 3, Lendenhall-street; or at private residences and scholastic establishments in London and vicinity.

For terms, testimonials, &c., address, 1, St. John's Grove Croydon; or as above.

**TO STUDENTS at COLLEGE, or GENTLEMEN wishing a QUIET HOME, BOARD and RESIDENCE are offered on moderate terms, near the Regent's-park.**

Address, L. C., 4, Fitzroy-place, Gloucester-road North.

**CAMDEN HOUSE SCHOOL, BRIGHTON.**  
PRINCIPAL, Mr. WILLIAM OLDING.

As there were NO VACANCIES, and constant applications were being rejected, Mr. Olding has, at a considerable outlay, ENLARGED the PREMISES. The next Quarter commences on Wednesday, March 25.

**EDUCATION, LONDON.—Parents seeking**

superior intellectual cultivation for their daughters, combined with earnest prayerful effort for their spiritual progress, may be supplied with a prospectus stating terms, which are moderate, with a list of first-class Masters in attendance, and with references of the most satisfactory character, by applying to H. V., Post-office, Ladbrook Grove, Notting-hill, London. In addition to the daily careful schoolroom training, the Sabbath teachings of one of the most earnest Evangelical Ministers in London is enjoyed—a Minister whose efforts have for many years been peculiarly blessed and useful to the young.

**GRAMMAR SCHOOL, ST. JOHN'S WOOD.**

Principal, Mr. T. GROSVENOR, L.C.P.—This Establishment is designed to afford the Educational advantages of the Public Schools, but free from the evils so commonly attending them. The intellectual powers of the pupils are developed by being brought into constant and healthful exercise; while their moral and religious culture is watched over with ceaseless solicitude. In the Domestic arrangements, the comfort and happiness of the pupils are systematically consulted. Prospectuses will be forwarded on application to Mr. Grosvenor, Albion-road, St. John's-wood.

**GROVE HOUSE ACADEMY, BRILL, BUCKS.**

FIVE YOUTHS now at this Establishment will enter upon Commercial Life at Lady-day. There will therefore be that number of VACANCIES.

The worth of the School is shown by its unparalleled success, and the happiness and progress of the Pupils, as well as their aptitude for, and success in, business pursuits.

TERMS.—The Preparatory School, Eighteen Guineas per annum. The Upper School, Twenty Guineas per annum.

This sum includes all those items generally charged as extras, requisites, &c., &c.

The following are some of the advantages of this Establishment: Sound teaching, constant oversight, absence of corporal punishment, parental kindness, unlimited supply of the best provisions, spacious and lofty rooms, and healthy locality.

If desired, the Pupils are allowed to write to their parents without being required to show their letters to their teachers. No better guarantee for proper treatment can be given.

Parents may obtain a pamphlet containing the fullest particulars by applying to the Principal, Mr. W. C. CLARK, Grove House, Brill, Bucks.

**NEW WEST LONDON BUILDING and INVESTMENT SOCIETY. Shares 100l. Entrance, 2s. 6d.; Subscription, 10s. No joint stock liability. Large interest. Perfect safety. Money advanced to any amount.**

Prospectuses, with full particulars, of Mr. Holcombe, Secretary, 3, Oldham-place, Bagnigge-wells-road, near Exmouth-street (W.C.)

**THE CONSERVATIVE LAND SOCIETY.**

TRUSTEES.

The Lord Viscount RANELAGH.

Right Hon. R. A. C. M. HAMILTON, M.P.

The Hon. Colonel LOWTHER, M.P.

J. C. COBBOLD, Esq., M.P.

By paying 2s. per month, and another 1s. quarterly, any person (children as well as ladies) may become the holder of a 50l. Share, without partnership liability of any kind. The entrance fee per share is 2s. 6d., and a pass-book (for any number of shares) costs 1s.; the first enrolment would be, therefore, 12s. 6d., and 8s. monthly afterwards. Sums of 5l. and upwards bear interest at the rate of Five per cent. per annum, paid half-yearly, one month after Lady-day and Michaelmas. All the members, whether they pay their Subscriptions monthly in advance, or take completed Shares, price 52l. 4s. 6d. each, participate in the annual division of the profits. The Society has never paid less bonus than Six per cent. to investors. The taking of land is quite optional. Prospectuses to be had of CHARLES LEWIS GRUNZEISEN, Secretary.  
Offices—33, Norfolk-street, Strand, London (W.C.)

**PERPETUAL INVESTMENT, LAND, and BUILDING SOCIETY.**

CHIEF OFFICE—37, NEW BRIDGE-STREET, BLACKFRIARS, LONDON.

**INVESTMENT SHARES ISSUED FROM 10l. to 100l.**

A 100l. share requires the payments of 10s. monthly for 124 years, or of 20s. for 74 years. The whole of the profits belong to the Shareholders, and will be received by them in addition to the amount of share.

Shares subscribed in full bear interest at Five per cent. payable on the 30th of April and October.

All money paid upon shares can at any time be withdrawn upon notice.

DEPOSITS received daily to any amount, at Four and a Half per cent. interest, returnable at one week's notice.

LOANS.—The Directors are prepared at once to advance money, in large or small sums, on mortgage upon houses and land, repayable by instalments during one to fifteen years.

The sum of 265,000l. has been received by this Society, since May, 1851, thus showing the confidence of the public in the principles of the Institution.

A copy of the last Annual Report, with Prospectus, will be sent upon receipt of One Postage Stamp.

JOHN EDWARD TRESIDDER, Secretary.

Agents wanted where none are appointed.

NEWSPAPER



**EXTRAORDINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.**  
No more New Members will be received after the March Meeting, and the Entrance Fee to Borrowers raised to 20s. per Share after that period.

**CONGREGATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY, No. 4.**  
Held at the BELGRAVE HALL, 41, LOWER BELGRAVE-PLACE, PIMLICO.  
3,000l. will be submitted to competition at the THIRD MEETING, on TUESDAY, March 3, 1857, at Eight o'clock.  
Subscriptions, 5s. per month; Six per cent. on withdrawals; and Six per cent. given for deposits.  
Rules and Prospectuses free by post for Ten Stamps.  
ROBERT GEORGE PEACOCK, Manager.  
County Fire Office, 41, Lower Belgrave-place, Pimlico.  
The Hall to be Let for Lectures, Society Meetings, &c.

**THE CAMBRIAN and UNIVERSAL LIFE and FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.** Capital, 100,000l. Established 1849.

**OFFICE, 27, GRESHAM-STREET.**  
Agencies in the principal towns of England and Wales.  
This office offers the benefit of assurance in all its branches and is highly eligible for every description of life assurance.  
A new and most important feature entirely originating with this Company, viz., Marriage Dowries, Life Assurance, and Deferred Annuities, included in one policy.  
Rates of premium moderate.  
Annuities granted. Family endowments.  
Loans on personal and other securities.  
Forms of proposal and every information may be obtained on application By order,  
ALFRED MELHADO, Manager.

**BRITISH EMPIRE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.**  
32, NEW BRIDGE-STREET, BLACKFRIARS, LONDON.  
Incorporated 1847, under Act 7 and 8 Vic., c. cx., and further Empowered by Special Act 15 Vic., c. llii.  
ACCUMULATED FUND, 100,000l.

**DIRECTORS.**  
JOHN GOVER, Esq., Chairman.  
ROBERT J. MILLAR, Esq., Vice-Chairman.  
Bennett, Charles, Esq. Gardiner, B. Webb, Esq.  
Binnell, Peter, Esq. Groser, William, Esq.  
Burton, John Robert, Esq. Lewis, George Cyrus, Esq.  
Cartwright, Richard, Esq. Pratt, Daniel, Esq.  
Sanders, Joseph, Esq.

**AUDITORS.**  
Burge, George William, Esq. Porter, Joseph Long, Esq.

**BANKERS.**  
UNION BANK OF LONDON, TEMPLE-BAR.  
SUSSEX—JOHN MANN, Esq.  
SUSSEX—THOMAS TURNER, Esq.  
Solicitors—Messrs. WATSON and SONS.

**RESULTS OF TEN YEARS' BUSINESS.**  
8,910 Policies issued, insuring 1,787,305l.; annual income, 50,000l.; profits divided, 28,000l.  
Pure Mutuality without personal liability.  
All the Profits belong to the Members, and are divided Triennially.  
Profits paid in Cash, added to the Assurance, or Premiums Reduced, at option.  
Advances granted to Members on their Policies to the extent of their Office value.  
Invalids Live Assured at equitable rates.  
Bonds employed in Advances to Members on adequate security.  
Policies granted on the Half Credit System.  
All Members entitled to Vote at the Annual Meetings of the Company.  
JAMES INGLIS, Secretary.

**LIFE ASSURANCE AGENCY.—The**  
Directors of the ACHILLES INSURANCE COMPANY are prepared to receive applications from respectable parties for Agencies in towns where they are not represented. For particulars, apply to the Secretary at the Chief Office.  
H. B. TAPLIN, Secretary.  
25, Cannon-street, City.

**ANNUITIES.—Annuities, Immediate and**  
Deferred, are granted by the Directors of the ACHILLES INSURANCE COMPANY, to parties of every age, on equitable terms. The following are illustrations of the Rates:—  
Amount of Immediate Annuity granted for every 100l. paid to the Company:—  
Age. £ s. d.  
30 . . . . . 5 18 8  
40 . . . . . 6 12 8  
50 . . . . . 7 11 5  
60 . . . . . 10 7 0

The general advantages offered by this Company will be seen on an investigation of its Rates of Premium. It offers to the Assured the security of a large subscribed capital, combined with all the advantages of a Mutual Assurance Office—Eighty per cent. of the Profits being divided among the Policyholders every five years.  
The Rates of Premium, which have been calculated by the Consulting Actuary, are based upon the latest and most approved corrected Tables of Mortality, and will, therefore, be found lower than those adopted by other and earlier institutions.

**DIRECTORS.**  
EDWARD MIALI, Esq., M.P., Chairman.  
Col. Lothian S. Dickson. J. Bishop Culpepper, Esq.  
Adolphus Baker, Esq. Henry Francis Home, Esq.  
R. S. Ashton, Esq. James Toleman, Esq.  
Thos. Houghton Barrett, Esq.

**BANKERS—COMMERCIAL BANK OF LONDON.**  
STANDING COUNSEL.  
ROBERT PORRETT COLLIER, Esq., Q.C., M.P.  
Solicitors.  
Messrs. SHEARD and BAKER, 3, Cloak-lane, City.  
CONSULTING ACTUARY—JENKIN JONES, Esq., F.I.A.

**MANCHESTER.**  
DIRECTORS.  
JAMES WATTS, Esq., Mayor of Manchester, Chairman.  
R. Shorrocks Ashton, Esq., J.P. Thomas Roberts, Esq.  
William Jenkinson, Esq. Robert Rumney, Esq.  
William Martin, Esq. J. Wood, Esq. (Wood & Wright.)  
William Woodward, Esq.  
LOCAL SECRETARY—JOHN KINGSLEY, Esq.  
OFFICES—11, DUOIE-PLACE (opposite the Exchange).

**BIRMINGHAM.**  
LOCAL SECRETARY.  
DAVID MALINS, Junr., Esq., 34, Colmore-row.  
Forms of Proposal, Rates of Premium, and any other particulars, can be obtained of the Agents of the Company, and at the Chief Office, 25, Cannon-street, London.  
H. B. TAPLIN, Secretary.

**SIX PER CENT. INTEREST.—DEBENTURES** bearing Six per Cent. Interest are now ready to be issued for sums of 20l. and upwards; interest payable half-yearly.  
Life Assurance Treasury Incorporated, and Deposit, Discount, and Assurance Bank. The Earl of DEVON, Chairman.  
6, Cannon-street West (E.C.). G. H. LAW, Manager.

**NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL LIFE ASSURANCE and GENERAL ADVANCE and DEPOSIT COMPANY.**

Incorporated under 7 and 8 Vic., c. 110.  
CAPITAL, 100,000l. in Ten Thousand Shares of 10l. each.  
22, NEW BRIDGE-STREET, BLACKFRIARS, LONDON.

**DIRECTORS.**  
MIERS, THOMAS, Esq., Cockfosters, East Barnet, Chairman.  
CUTHBERTSON, F. Esq., Aldersgate-street, Vice-Chairman.  
BURGESS, JOSEPH, Esq., Keene's-row, Walworth.  
GARDINER, B. WEBB, Esq., Princes-street, Cavendish-square.  
GOVER JOHN, Esq., Eagle-cottage, New Kent-road.  
GROSER, WILLIAM, Esq., Hemingford-villas, Islington.  
LINDSEY, MARK, Esq., 264, Borough; and Camberwell.  
MANN, JOHN, Esq., Charterhouse-square.  
PRATT, DANIEL, Esq., Cuckfield; and Bolt-court.  
SILVESTER, H. R. Esq., 18 and 19, Dover-road.  
TOWNSEND, H. M., Esq., 75, Newington-caneway.

**AUDITORS.**  
FREEMAN, GEORGE S. Esq., George-street, Camberwell.  
WILLS, JOHN, Esq., Doctors'-commons, and Reigate.

**BANKERS.**  
THE UNION BANK OF LONDON, Princes-street.  
Messrs. WATSON and SONS, Boniverie-street, Fleet-street.  
SECRETARY.—SAMUEL GREEN.

FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED and NINETY THREE Shares in this Company have been already issued, making the Share Capital at present subscribed, 43,930l. The Company has also received upon Deposit, 25,985l. 13s. 4d.  
ADVANCES made to Borrowers during the year ending September 30 last, amounted to 23,292l. 18s. 5d.  
The Income has enabled the Directors to declare DIVIDENDS of SIX PER CENT. PER ANNUM on the paid-up SHARE CAPITAL—a rate of Dividend which they have every reason to believe will be maintained. The DIVIDENDS are paid in JANUARY and JULY.  
Applications for the remaining Shares may be made to the Secretary, Samuel Green, Esq., at the Offices of the Company.  
By order, SAMUEL GREEN.

**IMPERIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, 1, OLD BROAD-STREET, LONDON.**  
Instituted 1830.

T. GEORGE BARCLAY, Esq., Chairman.  
MARTIN T. SMITH, Esq., M.P., Deputy-Chairman.  
One-third of the Premium on Insurances of 500l. and upwards, for the whole term of life, may remain as a debt upon the Policy, to be paid off at convenience; or the Directors will lend sums of 50l. and upwards, on the security of Policies effected with this Company, for the whole term of life, when they have acquired an adequate value.

Four-fifths, or Eighty per cent., of the Profits are assigned to Policies every fifth year, and may be applied to increase the sum insured, to an immediate payment in cash, or to the reduction and ultimate extinction of future Premiums.  
At the fifth appropriation of profits for the five years terminating January 31, 1856, a reversionary bonus was declared of 1l. 10s. per cent. on the sums insured, and subsisting additions for every premium paid during the five years. This bonus, on policies of the longest duration, exceeds 2l. 5s. per cent. per annum on the original sums insured, and increases a policy of 1,000l. to 1,634l.  
Proposals for Insurances may be made at the Chief Office, as above; at the Branch Office, 16, Pall-mall, London; or to any of the Agents throughout the kingdom.

**BONUS TABLE.**  
SHOWING THE ADDITIONS MADE TO POLICIES OF 1,000l. EACH.

Date of Insurance.	Amount of Additions to Feb. 1, 1851.	Addition made as on Feb. 1, 1856.	Sum Payable after Death.
1820 . . . . .	£ s. d. 523 16 0	£ s. d. 114 5 0	£ s. d. 1638 1 0
1825 . . . . .	382 14 0	103 14 0	1486 8 0
1830 . . . . .	241 12 0	93 2 0	1334 14 0
1835 . . . . .	185 3 0	88 17 0	1274 0 0
1840 . . . . .	128 15 0	84 13 0	1213 8 0
1845 . . . . .	65 15 0	79 18 0	1145 13 0
1850 . . . . .	10 0 0	75 15 0	1085 15 0
1855 . . . . .	—	15 0 0	1015 0 0

And for intermediate years in proportion.  
The next appropriation will be made in 1861.  
Insurances, without participation in Profits, may be effected at reduced rates.  
SAMUEL INGALL, Actuary.

1,000l. in case of Death.  
A Fixed Allowance of 6l. per week.  
In the event of injury by  
ACCIDENTS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,  
may be secured by an Annual Payment of 3l. for a Policy in the

**RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY.**  
Smaller amounts may be secured by proportionate payments.  
NO CHARGE FOR STAMP DUTY.  
RAILWAY ACCIDENTS ALONE may be insured against by the Journey, or by the Year, at all the principal Railway Stations, where also Forms of Proposal and Prospectuses may be had—and of the Provincial Agents—and at the Head Office, London.  
N.B.—The usefulness of this Company is shown by the sum paid as Compensation for Accidents—22,722l.  
Railway Passengers' Assurance Company, Empowered by Special Act of Parliament.  
Office, 3, Old Broad-street (E.S.)  
WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

**£10,000 READY to be ADVANCED,**  
in sums of 50l. and upwards, upon the Security of Freehold, Copyhold, and Leasehold Property.  
Apply, between the hours of nine and five, to Mr. J. E. Tredder, 37, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars.

ESTABLISHED 1838.  
Registered pursuant to 58 s. 7 and 8 Vic., cap. 110.

**MONEY LENT for Two Years, One Year,**  
or Six Months, on Personal Security, freehold or leasehold property, gold and silver plate, watches, jewellery, and every description of available security. Repayable by weekly, monthly, or quarterly instalments.  
SUMS from 5l. to 500l. may be obtained three days after application.  
This Office being open daily, from Nine to Six, the unpleasant necessity of applicants having to explain their affairs before a large number of persons is entirely avoided.  
FINSBURY LOAN OFFICE, 144, St. John-street-road, Clerkwell (three doors from Myddleton-street).

**COLOUR-BOXES.—The largest, cheapest,**  
and best assortment of Water-Colour Boxes in London, at J. BARNARD'S, 339, Oxford-street (opposite John-street), London.

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## Ecclesiastical Affairs.

### STARTED FOR THE SESSION!

WE congratulate the Executive of the Liberation Society on the thorough success of its latest movement, in the Public Dinner of last night, which we have deemed sufficiently important to justify delay in placing our Paper in the hands of our readers. It was a bold experiment, for many of the Society's supporters are not very partial to such entertainments, and there was nothing in the circumstances of the times to kindle enthusiasm, or to create factitious excitement. Yet, as the result of little more than private invitation, and without any pressure, there was an assembly last night in the London Tavern, which, of its kind, has not been equalled since the gathering of the Nonconformist body in the same room, in honour of the band of representatives returned at the last general election.

In two or three respects special significance may, we venture to think, be attached to such a demonstration. In the numbers present, in the influential elements of which the company was composed, in the attendance of many provincial friends, in the decision of the speakers, and the hearty responses of their auditors, there were ample indications that the tenacity of purpose which has always characterised the anti-State-Church party, has suffered no abatement, consequent on a dozen years of labour. But we can note certain signs of progress, as well as of continued vitality. The Society, it is now clear, can draw around it a class of public men, to whom it would at one time have been vain to look for help. It has put forth claims to confidence, in displaying capacity for work as well as for teaching, and those claims are beginning to be acknowledged. In what has been already done promise has been given of fresh achievements; and while some other reforming movements have of late years languished, or retrograded, no one doubts that the current is running with increasing strength in the direction of those comprehensive changes which the friends of willinghood avowedly aim to promote.

We beg, too, to call attention to the form and spirit of the Society's present mode of working, as shown in the addresses of the various speakers last evening. Politicians who have been wont to sneer at the abstractions of Voluntaries will find that we know how to give a practical application to our principles, and are not at a loss in seizing upon fitting occasions for forcing them to good purpose upon a Legislature which has an instinctive dread of sentiment, but, as Emerson phrases it, will bow down and worship a fact. Abolition of University Tests—the extinction of Church-rates—the opening of St. Stephen's to the Jew—the withdrawal of public grants and endowments in Ireland—these are objects too sharply defined to be consigned to the limbo of contempt by any class of men, and still less by those whose hopes of political power are based upon the suffrages of the electoral body. Doubtless the advocacy of anti-State-Church principles has at times assumed the appearance of mere zeal for Dissent. But, whenever justice is done to those principles, there is seen to be in them a breadth of application which raises them above the aims of a narrow sec-

tarianism. And the unselfishness and thorough equity of our policy is beginning to be appreciated. It is seen that we are fighting a battle for all, and not seeking the aggrandisement of an *ism* or a sect. It is seen, too, that there is, after all, an unexpected degree of practicability about what was once deemed "wild," "ultra," or "extreme." What conviction does not suggest, the hard pressure of circumstances is enforcing, and thus, by a gradual but steady process, the whole question is being brought down out of the region of speculation into that of actual and familiar fact.

We hope that the key-note struck by the speakers at the London Tavern, will be taken up both within and without the walls of Parliament. With respect to one or two questions, and especially that of Church-rates, it should be understood that there must be an end to forbearance, as regards both the Government and some of their supporters. Sir William Clay, Mr. Cheetham, and Mr. Barnes, while not unfriendly to the Ministry, spoke with an impatience of Ministerial hollowiness and treachery, justified by the events of last session, which ought to stimulate the abolition party to more determined action than has hitherto been deemed needful or justifiable. With a Government which has to meet a crisis almost every week, and with the probability that every member will soon have to face his constituents on the hustings, it ought to be easy to compel the settlement of a question which has too long been a bone of contention in the parishes, and an occasion of perplexity in Parliament.

There is much in the aspect of public affairs to induce us to set about the work of this session with a good heart. There has been lately a letting out of the waters of agitation. The people think they have been passive in respect to political matters long enough, and the House of Commons shows a determination to turn the present session to better account than the last. Already public opinion has gained a financial triumph in the cutting down of estimates and the modification of a Budget; and the Government, which has been so successfully squeezed before the session is three weeks old, may be made to concede still more. It will do so if there be unmistakable determination on the part of those whose behests even Governments must obey.

Of the particular means to be adopted for giving effect to the sessional programme of the Voluntaries it is not needful that we should now speak. They will have the suggestions and co-operation of those whom they have learned to trust, and who will strive to retain the confidence which is one of the sources of their strength. Hard labour will be needed. Ground already well beaten must again be travelled over. New devices must be tried where old ones have failed. There must be vigilance in avoiding political pitfalls, and promptness in following up advantages. With these there cannot be entire failure—there is likely to be proportionate success. That success we cannot command, but we may and we ought to deserve it, and, judging from the past, fidelity to our glorious principles is likely to bring with it a rich reward.

### THE RELIGIOUS LIBERTY DINNER.

This event, intended by the Liberation of Religion Society as an initiation of its parliamentary operations for the session, came off last night at the London Tavern, with great éclat. A large and highly respectable company filled the large room of that establishment; many of the gentlemen present being from the provinces. Among them we observed—John Remington Mills, Esq., the Chairman; Sir W. Clay, Bart., M.P.; W. S. Lindsay, Esq., M.P.; John Cheetham, Esq., M.P.; T. Barnes, Esq., M.P.; L. Heyworth, Esq., M.P.; R. Milligan, Esq., M.P.; T. M. Weguelin, Esq., M.P.; Sir J. Anderson, M.P.; James Bell, Esq., M.P.; Jas. Kershaw, Esq., M.P.; Mr. Serjeant Parry; E. C. Whitehurst, Esq.; H. Bateman, Esq.; Arthur Anderson, Esq.; Rev. W. Brock; Rev. J. Burnet; Potto Brown, Esq., of Houghton; R. W. Boarer, Esq., of Folkestone; Geo. Dawbarn, Esq., of Wisbeach; E. S.

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In the course of the proceedings it was stated that letters expressive of regret at unavoidable absence had been received from Mr. Tite, M.P., Mr. Alderman Salomons, Mr. Sharman Crawford, Mr. John Travers, Mr. Pellatt, M.P., Mr. Samuel Courtauld, Mr. Morley, and Mr. Milner Gibson, M.P.

The customary loyal toasts having been drunk with befitting honours,

The CHAIRMAN rose and said: Having discharged the duty which we owe to the Crown and the Royal family, we can advance to the more immediate objects of our meeting this evening. I have now to propose to you the following toast: "Equal civil and political advantages to persons in every class of the community, irrespective of religious distinctions, an essential element of Liberal policy." ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) Surrounded as I am by gentlemen much more competent to address you on this, as upon any other topic, than myself, it will be unnecessary for me to trespass long on your time. But I congratulate you and myself that we live under the auspicious reign of Queen Victoria. (Cheers.) Why, only two centuries ago, we should have been denounced either as traitors to the Government, or as maniacs, if we had ventured to propose such a toast as this. Look at the time of the restoration of Charles II., when the Royalists, who had felt the stern hand of that great man, Oliver Cromwell—who had for twelve years felt their exclusion from all places of power and emolument and trust, found themselves in the ascendant in the political world. You will recollect that they found their difference with their opponents as much religious as political, and they availed themselves of religious tests to accomplish political objects. It was in the first year of the reign of Charles II. that the Corporation Act was passed, which established the sacramental test, desecrating a holy rite of our religion, and imposing an onerous burden upon all conscientious men. (Hear, hear.) They forgot that the careless, the thoughtless, and the reckless, were the persons least affected by such a plan. To them it was easy enough to pass through any formality, and to take any oath, regardless of consequences, in order to obtain political or pecuniary advantages. It operated most powerfully upon the conscientious, and it effectually answered the object of the parties, because it turned out from all offices, ecclesiastical, civil and political, the large mass of their antagonists. Gentlemen, you will see how slow has been the progress of religious liberty in England, when you remember that it took a century and a half to wipe out that law from our Statute-book. (Hear, hear.) And even then, blind bigotry grasped its last remnant of power, and prevented the abolition of the Corporation Act from being as perfect as it ought to have been, and as it was proposed to be, by still excluding our fellow-subjects of the Hebrew nation from political offices. (Hear, hear.) I am glad, however, that we meet under better auspices. This toast that I propose seems to me to be founded in the simplest justice. If we take up, in political matters, the same golden rule that will apply to us in every relation—to do unto others as we wish them to do unto us—we shall find this toast most amply supported. There is no selfishness in it; we ask for nothing, and we wish for nothing, for ourselves, that we are not anxious and ready to share with our fellow-subjects. In my opinion, it is the most benevolent wish we can entertain towards them, for it tends to allay those animosities, the most bitter of all, founded upon religious differences. So far as in this country public opinion has gone along with the toast, it has been productive



of the happiest advantages. If we look to Ireland, we see the spirit of rebellion, which was fostered by these religious distinctions, subdued and abated, and we see peace prevailing in a country respecting which the great complaint now is that it does not figure in the Queen's speech. (Laughter.) If we look at our colonies, we see rebellion abated by giving to parties the rights of conscience and the rights of adopting their own religion. And wherever we look in the British empire, we see the same effect. Surely if the British Government feel that they can interfere with a Mohammedan power in behalf of liberty to Christian subjects, we may fairly expect that the toast I have given to you will receive its fullest accomplishment in our own country. (Hear, hear.) It would be difficult to see what right a British Government has to interfere for any class of religionists in a Mohammedan country while it refuses to do justice to every class in its own. It is unnecessary for me to say more respecting this toast than to show that it is a very comprehensive one. It admits of no distinctions except those which Providence makes in society. We are no levellers. We do not confound all classes of society, but we say that, in whatever class of society a man is, his religious opinions should not exclude him from its benefits. It is with these feelings that I propose the toast I have read to you. (Cheers.)

Mr. WEGUELIN, M.P.: I beg to thank you, Sir, for having done me the honour of allowing me to say a word upon this great theme. When I entered this room, I was not aware that I should have to speak upon this question, being anxious rather to listen to those sentiments which I knew I should hear from the distinguished men around me; but, Sir, having been called upon, I say I feel it a great honour to be allowed to say a word in support of a sentiment which is so consonant with my own feelings. (Cheers.) Sir, I feel, in surveying this great field of discussion, somewhat like a recruit who enters for the first time upon the field of battle, and sees all the vantage points occupied already in great force; for if I were anxious to speak upon this question at any length, I should find that the points on which I should like to say a word are all occupied by such distinguished men as Mr. Miall and Sir William Clay. I must therefore set on the broad field as a light skirmisher upon the great theme, hoping, however, that I shall be supported even in the field by men of greater eminence than myself. I think, Sir, in a Christian society constituted as ours is, where religious differences exist, where, in point of fact, they are evidence of an earnestness and a proof of a seriousness and attention to religious matters—I say, it is an essential part of the Christian society, that there should be mutual toleration amongst all those who may be said in that respect to agree to differ. (Hear, hear.) I cannot conceive of any man entertaining seriously and earnestly religious sentiments, and wishing to have any adventitious aid in support of those sentiments, apart from the truth upon which he relies, and I think it is essential to a Christian society—and when I say a Christian society, I mean a society where the most liberal sentiments prevail—that no civil, no political advantages should be attached to one set of opinions rather than another. I conceive we are all stones of one common building; differing, perhaps, in station; differing in honour; differing, in some degree, in ability; but all compacted together, I hope, in one uniform building, having unity in sentiment, though we may have plurality in opinions. To these few remarks, Mr. Chairman, I will only add, that I am an earnest believer in, and an earnest supporter of, the sentiments which you have brought under the notice of this meeting. (Cheers.)

Mr. BARNES, M.P., in responding to the toast generally, said: I assure you I regret greatly that that distinguished and able advocate, that honourable and learned member of the House of Commons, who was to have responded to this toast, is not present here to-night. I regret it on my own account, because a task has been imposed upon me which I shall very imperfectly perform; and I regret it on your account, because I am quite certain that you would have been delighted to hear those terse, pointed sentiments which so often issue from his mouth in the House of Commons, like balls from a Minié rifle, that not merely hit the mark at which they were aimed, but have gone right through it, and through those who stood behind too—a sort of little David, as Mr. Bright once called him, who with his stones from his sling has laid prostrate many a gigantic fallacy. I regret that Mr. Roebuck is not here to do full justice to the sentiment announced from the chair, because I am persuaded he would have done justice to it. However, I will not occupy your time, which I know is precious, with any kind of useless apologies, but say at once that I cordially sympathise with the sentiment that has been proposed. The first remark that would occur to me in being called upon to respond to it would be this: What! are we here yet? Have we got no further than this? Is this the point we are still talking about? "Equal civil, political, and religious liberty to every class of the community." Is that what we have been talking about all these years? Why, Sir, one of the first things that I remember after leaving school, and beginning to read the newspaper, and the debates in the House of Commons, was that the men of that day talked about equal civil, political, and religious advantages, and yet here we are at this time, in the latter part of the nineteenth century, still talking about the same thing. It is enough to make one ask whether really the world does move after all, or whether we are not stationary, seeing that in this enlightened age we are still sticking at this point. It is true we have made some progress. We can find no man now-a-days who would contend that if a man said the earth goes round the sun he

should be deprived of civil and political advantages. We cannot find a person who will contend that if a man is a follower of Dr. Dalton, and believes in the atomic theory, that should disqualify him for certain civil and religious advantages. We have got past that. No person now presumes to ask for a moment what a man's views are in astronomy, what they are in chemistry, in mechanics, or any other science; and we want to know why a man's religious opinions should not be put in the same category? (Hear, hear.) Government does not ask a man his views on scientific subjects; then why should it ask him his opinions in religious matters? After all, our Government in dealing with these matters is not very far advanced upon the old Scotch woman who once saw David Hume, the philosopher and historian, up to the middle in a bog, and unable to extricate himself. Knowing Hume's sceptical tendencies, she thought a good opportunity presented itself for making a convert of him; and she exclaimed, as he stretched out his hand to her, "What, David, are ye there? Now, say the Lord's Prayer; for if you won't, I won't lift you out of the bog." (Laughter.) Well, I say our Government is not very far advanced beyond that. (Hear, hear.) They are still calling upon certain persons to say the Lord's Prayer, or something equivalent to it: they still require men to conform to certain religious views or to a certain liturgy, before they will do them justice. Now, I do not object to saying the Lord's Prayer—far from it—but what I object to is having my civil rights and privileges depending upon my saying it or upon my doing anything else of a similar kind. I deny that any man has a right to impose any kind of terms as terms upon which he will do me justice. (Hear, hear.) As I have already said, we have made some advances; but we have a great advance yet to make. What we desire is, not only that the Government shall not ask any man what his opinions are upon religious questions, but we desire to see the principle laid down and acted upon that religious views and opinions have nothing whatever to do with civil and political advantages, and that a man shall be asked no questions about them. (Hear, hear.) We have fought and obtained concessions to the Catholics; we have obtained the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts; but still we have not seen the principle laid down and acted upon. We want it recognised by the State, and recognised to the full, so that in no way whatsoever shall the religious views of any one be the slightest impediment to his taking his proper position in society, as a member of the civil community. Now, what do we ask in asking for equal civil and political advantages? Are we asking any man to give up that to which he has a right? Oh, no, Sir, we are asking no man to concede anything; we are simply asking that justice may be done to all; that what has been given to one may be given to another; that the position which one man occupies, another may have the opportunity of attaining. But the question arises, How is this object of ours to be accomplished? Seeing that all classes of the community have not yet obtained their rights; seeing that the honourable baronet there (Sir William Clay) comes forward every year asking for another concession of justice; seeing that the right honourable member for Manchester, who I regret to find is not here, comes forward nearly every year, and asks for a concession in another way; the question is, How are we to obtain what we require? Why, just as we have obtained every other concession. Concession! No, Sir, I must withdraw that word. There have been no concessions. All that we have obtained we have wrested from the Governments. There has been the concession which a thief makes when he is overpowered by the police, and finds he can no longer retain that which he has taken. (Laughter.) Well, we must go to work as we have done before, instructing those without and teaching those within. How does Government touch these questions? Why, very much as if they were a bunch of nettles, as if they were afraid of them; but they ought to remember that if they do not wish to be stung by them the proper way is to grasp them with a firm hand and squeeze them. (Hear, hear.) If they do that, they will find many of the difficulties now standing in the way of political and religious equality, entirely vanish from their sight. Let me only add, before sitting down, that, as far as my humble abilities go, when in or out of the House of Commons, they will be willingly conceded in furtherance of the great object which we have in view. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN then called on Mr. Miall to respond to the toast, in connexion with "Impartial Disendowment, the only practical method of ensuring religious equality in Ireland."

Mr. MIALL, M.P.: Allow me, Mr. Chairman, in the first place to discharge a duty which was imposed upon me by my honourable and learned friend, the member for Sheffield, Mr. Roebuck, who was expected to be present. He charged me to say to this meeting that nothing but accident has prevented his being present—that a previous engagement of which he was not entirely certain, when I spoke to him a few days ago, claimed his presence this evening, and that in all the essential principles, which I may be supposed to represent, Mr. Roebuck most thoroughly and heartily sympathises with this meeting. (Cheers.) He should do so; and he is the last man in the kingdom who would make any boast of doing so, simply because that which we ask here, and which, as Dissenters, we have asked from the beginning, is nothing for ourselves—no privilege, no favour from the State beyond that which is enjoyed by every other man—simple justice. Religious liberty is in one sense a phrase to mislead us. We ask no liberty at all; we ask to be let alone where we think we have a right to do as we please; we ask merely that the State should not do us the injustice of compelling us, directly or

indirectly, to support religious opinions which we do not wholly approve; and the more that we can put our desires upon the footing of civil justice, and the less we identify them with special religious opinions, the better for them and for us. I do not believe that our sectarianism has advanced our cause at all. (Hear, hear.) I do not believe that it ought to advance our cause. Whatever we seek, we ought to seek as members of civil society, quite irrespective of the religious opinions we may happen to hold. There may be at this table—as I might almost presume to hope there are—Roman Catholics, members of the Church of England, members of the Presbyterian Church, those who hold the Unitarian views, and those who hold the views of the orthodox Dissenters. I do not see what their particular opinion has to do with the relationship which any man should sustain towards the civil interests of his country; be he Gentile or be he Jew; be he member of the Church of England, or be he Roman Catholic, all that the State can do for him as a good citizen, ought to be done on the ground of his being a good citizen, and not at all upon the ground of the creed which he may happen to receive. (Cheers.) Well, I believe, and indeed I am sure, generally speaking, that is the ground which Dissenters have taken. Their language may have misled, to some extent, the public; but I think I can appeal to our chairman, who has been long at the head of those who have fought the battle of civil and religious liberty, that my explanation of the sentiment of religious liberty does not differ in the slightest degree from that which he would give of the same thing, and of the motives by which he was actuated in early days, when he took so prominent a part in obtaining the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts. Well, gentlemen, it so happens that I have been called up in connexion with the application of this principle to the affairs of Ireland. Now, allow me to say, which I do most unfeignedly, that I deeply regret having to respond here or elsewhere to a toast of civil and religious liberty in regard to Ireland. I regret the necessity which has placed me prominent in any movement which has respect to that country; not that I do not esteem those whom I am acquainted with who have come from that country; not that I do not feel proud of being at the head of anything which proposes the advantage of that country; not that I should not feel highly honoured in carrying anything in which that country would feel that it had gained ought from the just sentiments of the people of England; but that I think I am somewhat out of place. All Irish movements ought to be conducted by Irish patriots. I must say that I have sometimes wondered that Irish patriots have not made more of the greatest grievance which they can have, than they have done. (Hear, hear.) Certainly, never was such an insult upon a people as that of fastening the religion of a minority, and a very small minority, upon the large majority of the people, and demanding from them not merely pecuniary support, but all that social homage which seems to imply superiority in the party that receives, and inferiority in the party that gives. If there was a question that should have led Irishmen especially who had the power and the opportunity of taking this matter in hand, and holding it up before the British Parliament, as a specimen of their injustice to Irish people, this seems to me to have been the one question of all others that they should have insisted upon. Well, it so happens that this has not been the question upon which they have insisted, at least of late. There was a time when it was a prominent question of the day. I am sorry to think that the Whigs, in conjunction with Mr. O'Connell, agreed that it was not a question that would suit the party purposes that then were paramount. It has been withdrawn; it has never been revived. Well now, I have no right to complain, although the matter has fallen accidentally into my hands; I have no right to complain of the support which I have received from Irish gentlemen. I see one honourable friend of mine from Ireland in this place this evening, and in his presence, I beg to testify that, to a considerable extent, the support which I had from the Irish members was as large as under the peculiar circumstances of the case I could expect when I presented to the House a case for the impartial disendowment of all religious sects in Ireland. I intend to bring forward that motion again—(Applause)—not exactly in the shape in which I first presented it, because in the somewhat detailed plan which I presented to the House of Commons of the mode in which I would carry out and apply the principle I recommended to their notice, I was thought to have committed, to a certain extent, those who honoured me with their support on that occasion. And hence there were some persons who felt unable to give me the support which they would have given on the principle itself. I intend, therefore, to move this session the principle apart from all details—a principle such as would be heartily approved, I am sure, by this meeting—heartily approved, I believe, by every man in his conscience when he comes to be alone, when he has no temptations to warp his ideas in conformity at all with his social interests and relations. The resolution I intend to propose to the House, as soon as I can get an opportunity of doing so, and of which I have given notice, is to this effect—that, regard being had to the circumstances of Ireland, the support of religious worship and teaching in that country by public endowments and parliamentary grants is practically incompatible with that equal and impartial treatment which all classes have a right to expect. (Hear, hear.) Now, that is a principle to which I think a large number of my fellow members in the House of Commons will rejoice



to give in their adhesion. For after all, this is a simple principle of justice. We do but ask on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland that all the members of it be not spoiled in order to provide that which is necessary for the maintenance and support of Protestant institutions. And for my own part, unless I were able to produce the whole of my principle in some such shape as this, it would be impossible for me to hold up my hand against the particular endowment of Maynooth College. (Hear, hear.) I vote against the endowment, because I regard it as an outpost, purposely erected by those who well understood what they were about, for the defence of the Irish Church. I believe it has acted as an outpost, an extraneous protection to the Establishment, ever since it existed. I think it has made a large number of Irish Roman Catholics very moderate in their opposition to the Irish Church, and I am sure it will continue to do so as long as it exists. So long as we have three denominations in Ireland, all of them assisting each other to maintain the public endowments of each, just so long shall we be foiled in all our attempts to get anything like a national expression in favour of that principle of justice to which your attention has been called this evening. Well, if we only throw out one, that one will be a help to us to throw out the other. (Hear, hear.) I am sorry that the one happens to be in this case Roman Catholic; because our motives in endeavouring to put an end to the endowment of the Catholics of Maynooth are somewhat misunderstood. But, wherever we have the opportunity of doing the thing effectually, I believe we are wise in doing what we intend—that is, give a practical and legislative effect, as far as we can, to the principles we maintain; and the end will be, as I anticipate, that just as we make these principles known, as principles that are not intended to exalt one sect at the expense of another, but simply to do justice to all parties, so the good sense and kind feeling of all Englishmen will be with us, and it will be understood that we are seeking not our own, but that which is alike interesting and important to every subject of the empire. For my part, although I care somewhat for Dissenters, I care infinitely more for Dissent; and my idea of Dissent, as I explained a day or two ago in another place, is this—a man's not allowing his head to be punched by anybody, nor allowing anybody's head to be punched on account of his religious opinions. (Laughter.) Well, this is the idea we want to carry out; and we ask nothing but to be let alone; we ask nothing for ourselves or for others, but that they may be let alone in regard to their religious opinions. In fact, we ask only this, that the Government may maintain itself and its operations within its own legitimate sphere. (Cheers.)

Mr. POLLARD URQUHART, M.P., said: Mr. Miall had so clearly explained both here and in the House of Commons, the injustice under which Ireland was labouring, that very little remained for him (Mr. Urquhart) to add. He would say that as an Irishman, and as a sincere Protestant he felt deeply sensible of the great injustice done to the majority of the inhabitants of that part of the United Kingdom—(hear, hear)—and he deeply regretted that that form of Christianity with which he was connected, and which he believed to be true, should seek in any way to depend for its progress or support upon what had been termed by an eminent modern historian, “the greatest ecclesiastical enormity in the world.” (Hear, hear.) He could not conceive how the most zealous Protestant could on any ground uphold the present monstrous institution. It had most signally failed to accomplish the object originally contemplated; for the proportion of Roman Catholics to Protestants in Ireland was larger at the present time than it was 150 years ago. Not only so, but the present system had caused the most signal social disorganisation that had ever existed in the world. As one connected by property and residence with both Scotland and Ireland, he had often compared the great social organisation and harmony existing in the former with the miserable condition of the latter; and he was at a loss to what cause to attribute the difference if not to that assigned by Mr. Macaulay—that in Scotland and England the people were one, because the Churches were two; whereas in Ireland and England the people were two, because the Churches were one. (Hear, hear.) Many had been the quack remedies proposed for the amelioration of the condition of Ireland; and they reminded him very much of the attempts of the Lilliputian philosopher to extract sunbeams from a cucumber. (Laughter.) Many would no doubt recollect the humorous squib of Tom Moore's, in which he stated that, after having read a pamphlet by a certain bishop on the Irish Church Establishment, he fell asleep and dreamed he was travelling in a country in India where the people were forbidden to eat meat, but to his astonishment he saw a number of flourishing butchers' shops. He could not ascertain how these shops were so prosperous until he applied to one of the butchers. “Oh, Sir,” said he, “I see you are a stranger here, but we have an excellent law here—

“The rogues may munch their paddy crop,  
But the rogues must still support our shop.  
And depend upon it, the way to treat  
Heretical stomachs that love dissent,  
Is to burden to all who can't eat meat,  
With a costly meat establishment.”

(Laughter.) The butchers who lived by heretical stomachs being compelled to buy at their shops still existed; and the evil could only be remedied by a general disendowment of all the sects in Ireland; for the time for anything like a compromise was now passed. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN called upon Sir W. Clay, Bart., M.P., to respond in connexion with the total and unconditional abolition of Church-rates.

Three times three, and one cheer more.

Sir W. CLAY felt very much gratified by having his name coupled with the abolition of Church-rates—(hear, hear)—coupled with their aspirations for a reform beyond which none could be more imperatively required; with their aspirations for the abolition of a tax as unjust and oppressive as it was unwise, which called upon one-half of the people of England to contribute to the exclusive benefit of the remaining half. (Hear.) He believed that of the practical developments of the great principles of religious freedom, none was of greater, at least of more pressing, immediate importance, than the abolition of that unjust and oppressive impost. (Hear, hear.) The present was not a fitting time or occasion for entering into discussion upon the details of that great question. They were assembled, not to enter into argument, but for the pleasure of meeting those who were agreed upon almost all the great principles by which the hearts and minds of men could be actuated with regard to public affairs. They were met—they who were members of the House of Commons—to derive from the sympathy of their assembled friends fresh earnestness of purpose—(cheers)—fresh assurances of success. (Cheers.) Were it otherwise, he should feel that he could not with advantage detain them with any observations upon the great principles involved in the abolition of Church-rates; for, in point of fact, all argument was exhausted. Those present were all familiar with the reasons that rendered that abolition inevitable. Church-rate abolition had manifested all the phases, had passed through all the stages, through which all great questions in every free country, and especially in this, passed before arriving at ultimate success. They had arrived at that stage when, as he had said, all argument was at an end, when the mind of the people was made up, when, in reality, the question was not so much on the propriety or the necessity of the abolition, as it was to the mode and time in which that abolition should be accomplished. Let him, in admitting that this had been a slow process, that they had been for many years disappointed, refer to what had fallen from an honourable friend near him in his able address. It was quite true that the advocates of progress were often disappointed by the slow growth of reform; disappointed and disheartened by finding that resistance was prolonged when all rational ground for that resistance had been removed. (Hear, hear.) But they the advocates of sound and constitutional progress in the great principles of freedom, might, he thought, have this consolation—and he had no doubt his honourable friend would agree with him—that while for every reform based upon truth ulterior success was inevitable; while no claim based upon justice was ever in the long run refused; while no change for the benefit of the body politic, the great mass of the people, was ever ultimately averted,—there was at least this advantage arising from almost interminable discussion, that the only possible danger attendant on change was altogether obviated. He alluded to the feelings of insecurity, of instability in the public mind, which hasty, he would not say ill-considered, change, might be calculated to inspire. In this great and free country every change, every reform was debated, till all argument was exhausted, and reform ceasing to wear the appearance of change, ceased to bear the character of innovation. (Hear, hear.) Before it actually occurred, it had become a part, by anticipation as it were, of the national mind; and everybody felt that when it absolutely occurred, it was but the consummation of that mental process which had been brewing in the heart and mind of every individual. (Cheers.) Well, at that stage he thought they should arrive in the Church-rate reform. (Hear, hear.) Success was not only certain, not only inevitable, it was also imminent. But that last step they must take—that last progress and triumph they must accomplish, as they had every other. Hope nothing from anybody else. (Hear, hear.) Hope nothing from the Government. (Cheers.) If ever the great truth, that all organic change, however valuable—that all reforms proceed from the people—if ever that great truth needed illustration, it was given in the last session of Parliament. He spoke in no spirit hostile to the Government. He should be ashamed of himself if he could permit any personal pique at the mode in which he was himself treated, to interfere with his feelings upon a great public question with regard to the Government. He approved of them, generally. He gave them, generally, his support. He believed they had ably conducted the affairs of the country. In a very recent instance, he believed that by mingled sagacity and firmness they had conferred not only advantage and honour on their country, but infinite advantage to the interests of liberty throughout the world. (Cheers.) While entertaining these feelings towards the Government of Lord Palmerston, he was bound to say that the figure they cut upon this great question of religious liberty was to the last degree discreditable. (Laughter and cheers.) The Cabinet adopted the principle of entire abolition. (Hear, hear.) They said, “if you will assent to certain amendments, we, the Government, will adopt the measure.” They who had the conduct of the measure in Parliament did not conceive that these amendments were alien in principle to the great object of the bill. Though far from thinking that they improved the measure—on the contrary, that they injured it—yet, as they were not alien to it in principle, and as they thought the adoption of the amendments might have the effect of securing the assistance of the Government in carrying the measure through the House of Lords, and that they might thus expedite relief to a Government proposition of their fellow-countrymen, they assented to those amendments. In the opinion of the House and of the world, Government adopted

the measure, and they were bound in honesty and principle to give the friends of the measure their best assistance. (Hear, hear.) Well, what happened? The leader of the House of Commons could never find a convenient time to bring it on. (Cries of “Shame.”) The noble lord was urged not only by himself, the individual honoured with the confidence of the party in the House of Commons who were seeking this reform, but a memorial was also presented to him, signed by one or two hundred liberal members of the House (it might have been signed by double the number) urging upon him the progress of the measure. The session, however, passed away under the plea that there was no time to find a day for the purpose. The best proof that that was not the reason, but a pretext—(hear, hear)—was this, that this year, with the whole session before them, when the Government might have brought forward a similar measure, or a measure modified in some degree for the abolition of Church-rates, they had declined to do anything of the kind. (Hear, hear.) He disdained to make any comments—as he had said before, he thought well of the Government generally—he should abstain on the present occasion from making any comments, and should confine himself to a bare historical relation of the facts. In point of fact, his advice to them applied not to the Government of Lord Palmerston alone, it applied to all Governments. Depend on no Government. It was the very nature of a Government that they should undertake no organic or difficult change, however desirable. (Hear.) Like the gods of Lucretius, they desired to pass a pleasant time, undisturbed by the clamours of the people. The individuals who composed that Government having struggled in the arena of political warfare, and won their high position, they desired to retain that position at the cheapest price, by performing well their ordinary official duties. That which they hated and detested was to have their tranquillity disturbed by the attempt to make any organic change, however beneficial. They had been told on high authority not to put their trust in princes. His advice to them was that they should add to that category: “Put not your trust in Prime Ministers.” (Laughter and cheers.) Trust themselves, and themselves alone. (Hear, hear.) The men he saw around him were specimens of what the advocates of religious freedom were throughout the country. He appealed to them to arouse, concentrate, and direct public attention; to pour it in a volume upon the Legislature; to address individually the members of that Legislature; and to supply to the Government the only motive which would ever make them act—that was to say, let them understand that the people would endure no further trifling. (Loud cheers.) For himself, they need not doubt his earnestness. (Cheers.) Long acquaintance with this question, intimate searching into its merits, had given him the profoundest conviction of the truth and justice of their cause. (Cheers.) In addition, he had all the earnestness which every man feels who had long pursued an object he intensely desired without having yet accomplished it. He confessed that he should be proud to associate with a political career, now of no short duration, and, of course, drawing towards its close, he should be proud to associate with it the glorious consummation of this great question. (Loud cheers.) Lend him their assistance as they had hitherto done, and he did not despair of success, of success not only certain but imminent.

The honourable baronet resumed his seat amid great cheering.

The CHAIRMAN said the secretary would read letters from gentlemen who were absent.

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS, the Secretary, stated that letters had been received from Mr. Tito, M.P., Mr. J. I. Travers, Mr. S. Courtauld, Mr. A. Pellatt, M.P., Mr. S. Moreley, Mr. Sharman Crawford, Alderman Salomons, and Mr. M. Gibson, M.P., explaining the cause of their absence.

In the absence of Mr. Milner Gibson, M.P., the CHAIRMAN called upon Mr. Lindsay, M.P., to respond upon the special point of Hebrew Emancipation.

Mr. LINDSAY, M.P., said he had only one regret connected with the duty he was called upon to perform, and that was the absence of his friend Mr. Milner Gibson, who would have done far greater justice to the toast than he could pretend to do. It had been his lot, as he had risen in public life, to be called upon to respond to commercial sentiments, to “Ships, Colonies, and Commerce,” to “Shipping,” to “Commercial Progress;” but he had never been called upon to respond to religious progress. But, though he had never spoken on such subjects as these, and had been called upon unexpectedly, he was sure they would excuse the faltering of the tongue when they knew the heart was with it. He was an advocate for religious liberty in the fullest sense of the word. He could not be otherwise, as a member of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland through a long descent. He could not boast of proud descent, of high origin, but he could boast of being a descendant, an humble descendant, of one of the old Covenanters in Scotland, who sacrificed his life, his all, for the cause of religious liberty. Upon the subject of Hebrew emancipation he had taken a deep interest. The denial of liberty to the Jew was one of the last rags of religious intolerance. He was surprised at the course which had been taken connected with this question. At a general election, whatever the candidate's views might be, whether Whig, Radical, or bigoted Conservative, if he was asked upon the hustings, “Are you an advocate of religious liberty?” he dare not say “No!”—(hear, hear)—so strong was the feeling throughout the country in favour of religious liberty. Yet with all this the question of Hebrew emancipation was still unsettled



of the happiest advantages. If we look to Ireland, we see the spirit of rebellion, which was fostered by these religious distinctions, subdued and abated, and we see peace prevailing in a country respecting which the great complaint now is that it does not figure in the Queen's speech. (Laughter.) If we look at our colonies, we see rebellion abated by giving to parties the rights of conscience and the rights of adopting their own religion. And wherever we look in the British empire, we see the same effect. Surely if the British Government feel that they can interfere with a Mohammedan power in behalf of liberty to Christian subjects, we may fairly expect that the toast I have given to you will receive its fullest accomplishment in our own country. (Hear, hear.) It would be difficult to see what right a British Government has to interfere for any class of religionists in a Mohammedan country while it refuses to do justice to every class in its own. It is unnecessary for me to say more respecting this toast than to show that it is a very comprehensive one. It admits of no distinctions except those which Providence makes in society. We are no levellers. We do not confound all classes of society, but we say that, in whatever class of society a man is, his religious opinions should not exclude him from its benefits. It is with these feelings that I propose the toast I have read to you. (Cheers.)

Mr. WEGUELIN, M.P.: I beg to thank you, Sir, for having done me the honour of allowing me to say a word upon this great theme. When I entered this room, I was not aware that I should have to speak upon this question, being anxious rather to listen to those sentiments which I knew I should hear from the distinguished men around me; but, Sir, having been called upon, I say I feel it a great honour to be allowed to say a word in support of a sentiment which is so consonant with my own feelings. (Cheers.) Sir, I feel, in surveying this great field of discussion, somewhat like a recruit who enters for the first time upon the field of battle, and sees all the vantage points occupied already in great force; for if I were anxious to speak upon this question at any length, I should find that the points on which I should like to say a word are all occupied by such distinguished men as Mr. Miall and Sir William Clay. I must therefore act on the broad field as a light skirmisher upon the great theme, hoping, however, that I shall be supported even in the field by men of greater eminence than myself. I think, Sir, in a Christian society constituted as ours is, where religious differences exist, where, in point of fact, they are evidence of an earnestness and a proof of a seriousness and attention to religious matters—I say, it is an essential part of the Christian society, that there should be mutual toleration amongst all those who may be said in that respect to agree to differ. (Hear, hear.) I cannot conceive of any man entertaining seriously and earnestly religious sentiments, and wishing to have any adventitious aid in support of those sentiments, apart from the truth upon which he relies, and I think it is essential to a Christian society—and when I say a Christian society, I mean a society where the most liberal sentiments prevail—that no civil, no political advantages should be attached to one set of opinions rather than another. I conceive we are all stones of one common building; differing, perhaps, in station; differing in honour; differing, in some degree, in ability; but all compacted together. I hope, in one uniform building, having unity in sentiment, though we may have plurality in opinions. To these few remarks, Mr. Chairman, I will only add, that I am an earnest believer in, and an earnest supporter of, the sentiments which you have brought under the notice of this meeting. (Cheers.)

Mr. BARNES, M.P., in responding to the toast generally, said: I assure you I regret greatly that that distinguished and able advocate, that honourable and learned member of the House of Commons, who was to have responded to this toast, is not present here to-night. I regret it on my own account, because a task has been imposed upon me which I shall very imperfectly perform; and I regret it on your account, because I am quite certain that you would have been delighted to hear those terse, pointed sentiments which so often issue from his mouth in the House of Commons, like balls from a Minié rifle, that not merely hit the mark at which they were aimed, but have gone right through it, and through those who stood behind too—a sort of little David, as Mr. Bright once called him, who with his stones from his sling has laid prostrate many a gigantic fallacy. I regret that Mr. Roebuck is not here to do full justice to the sentiment announced from the chair, because I am persuaded he would have done justice to it. However, I will not occupy your time, which I know is precious, with any kind of useless apologies, but say at once that I cordially sympathise with the sentiment that has been proposed. The first remark that would occur to me in being called upon to respond to it would be this: What! are we here yet? Have we got no further than this? Is this the point we are still talking about? "Equal civil, political, and religious liberty to every class of the community." Is that what we have been talking about all these years? Why, Sir, one of the first things that I remember after leaving school, and beginning to read the newspaper, and the debates in the House of Commons, was that the men of that day talked about equal civil, political, and religious advantages, and yet here we are at this time, in the latter part of the nineteenth century, still talking about the same thing. It is enough to make one ask whether really the world does move after all, or whether we are not stationary, seeing that in this enlightened age we are still sticking at this point. It is true we have made some progress. We can find no man now-a-days who would contend that if a man said the earth goes round the sun he

should be deprived of civil and political advantages. We cannot find a person who will contend that if a man is a follower of Dr. Dalton, and believes in the atomic theory, that should disqualify him for certain civil and religious advantages. We have got past that. No person now presumes to ask for a moment what a man's views are in astronomy, what they are in chemistry, in mechanics, or any other science; and we want to know why a man's religious opinions should not be put in the same category? (Hear, hear.) Government does not ask a man his views on scientific subjects; then why should it ask him his opinions in religious matters? After all, our Government in dealing with these matters is not very far advanced upon the old Scotch woman who once saw David Hume, the philosopher and historian, up to the middle in a bog, and unable to extricate himself. Knowing Hume's sceptical tendencies, she thought a good opportunity presented itself for making a convert of him; and she exclaimed, as he stretched out his hand to her, "What, David, are ye there? Now, say the Lord's Prayer; for if you won't, I won't lift you out of the bog." (Laughter.) Well, I say our Government is not very far advanced beyond that. (Hear, hear.) They are still calling upon certain persons to say the Lord's Prayer, or something equivalent to it: they still require men to conform to certain religious views or to a certain liturgy, before they will do them justice. Now, I do not object to saying the Lord's Prayer—far from it—but what I object to is having my civil rights and privileges depending upon my saying it or upon my doing anything else of a similar kind. I deny that any man has a right to impose any kind of terms as terms upon which he will do me justice. (Hear, hear.) As I have already said, we have made some advances; but we have a great advance yet to make. What we desire is, not only that the Government shall not ask any man what his opinions are upon religious questions, but we desire to see the principle laid down and acted upon that religious views and opinions have nothing whatever to do with civil and political advantages, and that a man shall be asked no questions about them. (Hear, hear.) We have fought and obtained concessions to the Catholics; we have obtained the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts; but still we have not seen the principle laid down and acted upon. We want it recognised by the State, and recognised to the full, so that in no way whatsoever shall the religious views of any one be the slightest impediment to his taking his proper position in society, as a member of the civil community. Now, what do we ask in asking for equal civil and political advantages? Are we asking any man to give up that to which he has a right? Oh, no, Sir, we are asking no man to concede anything; we are simply asking that justice may be done to all; that what has been given to one may be given to another; that the position which one man occupies, another may have the opportunity of attaining. But the question arises, How is this object of ours to be accomplished? Seeing that all classes of the community have not yet obtained their rights; seeing that the honourable baronet there (Sir William Clay) comes forward every year asking for another concession of justice; seeing that the right honourable member for Manchester, who I regret to find is not here, comes forward nearly every year, and asks for a concession in another way; the question is, How are we to obtain what we require? Why, just as we have obtained every other concession. Concession! No, Sir, I must withdraw that word. There have been no concessions. All that we have obtained we have wrenched from the Governments. There has been the concession which a thief makes when he is overpowered by the police, and finds he can no longer retain that which he has taken. (Laughter.) Well, we must go to work as we have done before, instructing those without and teaching those within. How does Government touch these questions? Why, very much as if they were a bunch of nettles, as if they were afraid of them; but they ought to remember that if they do not wish to be stung by them the proper way is to grasp them with a firm hand and squeeze them. (Hear, hear.) If they do that, they will find many of the difficulties now standing in the way of political and religious equality, entirely vanish from their sight. Let me only add, before sitting down, that, as far as my humble abilities go, when in or out of the House of Commons, they will be willingly conceded in furtherance of the great object which we have in view. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN then called on Mr. Miall to respond to the toast, in connexion with "Impartial Disendowment, the only practical method of ensuring religious equality in Ireland."

Mr. MIALL, M.P.: Allow me, Mr. Chairman, in the first place to discharge a duty which was imposed upon me by my honourable and learned friend, the member for Sheffield, Mr. Roebuck, who was expected to be present. He charged me to say to this meeting that nothing but accident has prevented his being present—that a previous engagement of which he was not entirely certain, when I spoke to him a few days ago, claimed his presence this evening, and that in all the essential principles, which I may be supposed to represent, Mr. Roebuck most thoroughly and heartily sympathises with this meeting. (Cheers.) He should do so; and he is the last man in the kingdom who would make any boast of doing so, simply because that which we ask here, and which, as Dissenters, we have asked from the beginning, is nothing for ourselves—no privilege, no favour from the State beyond that which is enjoyed by every other man—simple justice. Religious liberty is in one sense a phrase to mislead us. We ask no liberty at all; we ask to be let alone where we think we have a right to do as we please; we ask merely that the State should not do us the injustice of compelling us, directly or

indirectly, to support religious opinions which we do not wholly approve; and the more that we can put our desires upon the footing of civil justice, and the less we identify them with special religious opinions, the better for them and for us. I do not believe that our sectarianism has advanced our cause at all. (Hear, hear.) I do not believe that it ought to advance our cause. Whatever we seek, we ought to seek as members of civil society, quite irrespective of the religious opinions we may happen to hold. There may be at this table—as I might almost presume to hope there are—Roman Catholics, members of the Church of England, members of the Presbyterian Church, those who hold the Unitarian views, and those who hold the views of the orthodox Dissenters. I do not see what their particular opinion has to do with the relationship which any man should sustain towards the civil interests of his country; be he Gentile or be he Jew; be he member of the Church of England, or be he Roman Catholic, all that the State can do for him as a good citizen, ought to be done on the ground of his being a good citizen, and not at all upon the ground of the creed which he may happen to receive. (Cheers.) Well, I believe, and indeed I am sure, generally speaking, that is the ground which Dissenters have taken. Their language may have misled, to some extent, the public; but I think I can appeal to our chairman, who has been long at the head of those who have fought the battle of civil and religious liberty, that my explanation of the sentiment of religious liberty does not differ in the slightest degree from that which he would give of the same thing, and of the motives by which he was actuated in early days, when he took so prominent a part in obtaining the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts. Well, gentlemen, it so happens that I have been called up in connexion with the application of this principle to the affairs of Ireland. Now, allow me to say, which I do most unfeignedly, that I deeply regret having to respond here or elsewhere to a toast of civil and religious liberty in regard to Ireland. I regret the necessity which has placed me prominent in any movement which has respect to that country; not that I do not esteem those whom I am acquainted with who have come from that country; not that I do not feel proud of being at the head of anything which proposes the advantage of that country; not that I should not feel highly honoured in carrying anything in which that country would feel that it had gained ought from the just sentiments of the people of England; but that I think I am somewhat out of place. All Irish movements ought to be conducted by Irish patriots. I must say that I have sometimes wondered that Irish patriots have not made more of the greatest grievance which they can have, than they have done. (Hear, hear.) Certainly, never was such an insult upon a people as that of fastening the religion of a minority, and a very small minority, upon the large majority of the people, and demanding from them not merely pecuniary support, but all that social homage which seems to imply superiority in the party that receives, and inferiority in the party that gives. If there was a question that should have led Irishmen especially who had the power and the opportunity of taking this matter in hand, and holding it up before the British Parliament, as a specimen of their injustice to Irish people, this seems to me to have been the one question of all others that they should have insisted upon. Well, it so happens that this has not been the question upon which they have insisted, at least of late. There was a time when it was a prominent question of the day. I am sorry to think that the Whigs, in conjunction with Mr. O'Connell, agreed that it was not a question that would suit the party purposes that then were paramount. It has been withdrawn; it has never been revived. Well now, I have no right to complain, although the matter has fallen accidentally into my hands; I have no right to complain of the support which I have received from Irish gentlemen. I see one honourable friend of mine from Ireland in this place this evening, and in his presence, I beg to testify that, to a considerable extent, the support which I had from the Irish members was as large as under the peculiar circumstances of the case I could expect when I presented to the House a case for the impartial disendowment of all religious sects in Ireland. I intend to bring forward that motion again—(Applause)—not exactly in the shape in which I first presented it, because in the somewhat detailed plan which I presented to the House of Commons of the mode in which I would carry out and apply the principle I recommended to their notice, I was thought to have committed, to a certain extent, those who honoured me with their support on that occasion. And hence there were some persons who felt unable to give me the support which they would have given on the principle itself. I intend, therefore, to move this session the principle apart from all details—a principle such as would be heartily approved, I am sure, by this meeting—heartily approved, I believe, by every man in his conscience when he comes to be alone, when he has no temptations to warp his ideas in conformity at all with his social interests and relations. The resolution I intend to propose to the House, as soon as I can get an opportunity of doing so, and of which I have given notice, is to this effect—that, regard being had to the circumstances of Ireland, the support of religious worship and teaching in that country by public endowments and parliamentary grants is practically incompatible with that equal and impartial treatment which all classes have a right to expect. (Hear, hear.) Now, that is a principle to which I think a large number of my fellow members in the House of Commons will rejoice



to give in their adhesion. For after all, this is a simple principle of justice. We do but ask on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland that all the members of it be not spoiled in order to provide that which is necessary for the maintenance and support of Protestant institutions. And for my own part, unless I were able to produce the whole of my principle in some such shape as this, it would be impossible for me to hold up my hand against the particular endowment of Maynooth College. (Hear, hear.) I vote against the endowment, because I regard it as an outpost, purposely erected by those who well understood what they were about, for the defence of the Irish Church. I believe it has acted as an outpost, an extraneous protection to the Establishment, ever since it existed. I think it has made a large number of Irish Roman Catholics very moderate in their opposition to the Irish Church, and I am sure it will continue to do so as long as it exists. So long as we have three denominations in Ireland, all of them assisting each other to maintain the public endowments of each, just so long shall we be foiled in all our attempts to get anything like a national expression in favour of that principle of justice to which your attention has been called this evening. Well, if we only throw out one, that one will be a help to us to throw out the other. (Hear, hear.) I am sorry that the one happens to be in this case Roman Catholic; because our motives in endeavouring to put an end to the endowment of the Catholics of Maynooth are somewhat misunderstood. But, wherever we have the opportunity of doing the thing effectually, I believe we are wise in doing what we intend—that is, give a practical and legislative effect, as far as we can, to the principles we maintain; and the end will be, as I anticipate, that just as we make these principles known, as principles that are not intended to exalt one sect at the expense of another, but simply to do justice to all parties, so the good sense and kind feeling of all Englishmen will be with us, and it will be understood that we are seeking not our own, but that which is alike interesting and important to every subject of the empire. For my part, although I care somewhat for Dissenters, I care infinitely more for Dissent; and my idea of Dissent, as I explained a day or two ago in another place, is this—a man's not allowing his head to be punched by anybody, nor allowing anybody's head to be punched on account of his religious opinions. (Laughter.) Well, this is the idea we want to carry out; and we ask nothing but to be let alone; we ask nothing for ourselves or for others, but that they may be let alone in regard to their religious opinions. In fact, we ask only this, that the Government may maintain itself and its operations within its own legitimate sphere. (Cheers.)

Mr. POLLARD URQUHART, M.P., said: Mr. Miall had so clearly explained both here and in the House of Commons, the injustice under which Ireland was labouring, that very little remained for him (Mr. Urquhart) to add. He would say that as an Irishman, and as a sincere Protestant he felt deeply sensible of the great injustice done to the majority of the inhabitants of that part of the United Kingdom—(hear, hear)—and he deeply regretted that that form of Christianity with which he was connected, and which he believed to be true, should seek in any way to depend for its progress or support upon what had been termed by an eminent modern historian, “the greatest ecclesiastical enormity in the world.” (Hear, hear.) He could not conceive how the most zealous Protestant could on any ground uphold the present monstrous institution. It had most signally failed to accomplish the object originally contemplated; for the proportion of Roman Catholics to Protestants in Ireland was larger at the present time than it was 150 years ago. Not only so, but the present system had caused the most signal social disorganisation that had ever existed in the world. As one connected by property and residence with both Scotland and Ireland, he had often compared the great social organisation and harmony existing in the former with the miserable condition of the latter; and he was at a loss to what cause to attribute the difference if not to that assigned by Mr. Macaulay—that in Scotland and England the people were one, because the Churches were two; whereas in Ireland and England the people were two, because the Churches were one. (Hear, hear.) Many had been the quack remedies proposed for the amelioration of the condition of Ireland; and they reminded him very much of the attempts of the Lilliputian philosopher to extract sunbeams from a cucumber. (Laughter.) Many would no doubt recollect the humorous squib of Tom Moore's, in which he stated that, after having read a pamphlet by a certain bishop on the Irish Church Establishment, he fell asleep and dreamed he was travelling in a country in India where the people were forbidden to eat meat, but to his astonishment he saw a number of flourishing butchers' shops. He could not ascertain how these shops were so prosperous until he applied to one of the butchers. “Oh, Sir,” said he, “I see you are a stranger here, but we have an excellent law here—”

“The rogues may munch their paddy crop,  
But the rogues must still support our shop.  
And depend upon it, the way to treat  
Heretical stomachs, that love dissent,  
Is to burden to all who can't eat meat,  
With a costly meat establishment.”

(Laughter.) The butchers who lived by heretical stomachs being compelled to buy at their shops still existed; and the evil could only be remedied by a general disendowment of all the sects in Ireland, for the time for anything like a compromise was now passed. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN called upon Sir W. Clay, Bart., M.P., to respond in connexion with the total and unconditional abolition of Church-rates.

Three times three, and one cheer more.

Sir W. CLAY felt very much gratified by having his name coupled with the abolition of Church-rates—(hear, hear)—coupled with their aspirations for a reform beyond which none could be more imperatively required; with their aspirations for the abolition of a tax as unjust and oppressive as it was unwise, which called upon one-half of the people of England to contribute to the exclusive benefit of the remaining half. (Hear.) He believed that of the practical developments of the great principles of religious freedom, none was of greater, at least of more pressing, immediate importance, than the abolition of that unjust and oppressive impost. (Hear, hear.) The present was not a fitting time or occasion for entering into discussion upon the details of that great question. They were assembled, not to enter into argument, but for the pleasure of meeting those who were agreed upon almost all the great principles by which the hearts and minds of men could be actuated with regard to public affairs. They were met—they who were members of the House of Commons—to derive from the sympathy of their assembled friends fresh earnestness of purpose—(cheers)—fresh assurances of success. (Cheers.) Were it otherwise, he should feel that he could not with advantage detain them with any observations upon the great principles involved in the abolition of Church-rates; for, in point of fact, all argument was exhausted. Those present were all familiar with the reasons that rendered that abolition inevitable. Church-rate abolition had manifested all the phases, had passed through all the stages, through which all great questions in every free country, and especially in this, passed before arriving at ultimate success. They had arrived at that stage when, as he had said, all argument was at an end, when the mind of the people was made up, when, in reality, the question was not so much on the propriety or the necessity of the abolition, as it was to the mode and time in which that abolition should be accomplished. Let him, in admitting that this had been a slow process, that they had been for many years disappointed, refer to what had fallen from an honourable friend near him in his able address. It was quite true that the advocates of progress were often disappointed by the slow growth of reform; disappointed and disheartened by finding that resistance was prolonged when all rational ground for that resistance had been removed. (Hear, hear.) But they the advocates of sound and constitutional progress in the great principles of freedom, might, he thought, have this consolation—and he had no doubt his honourable friend would agree with him—that while for every reform based upon truth, ulterior success was inevitable; while no claim based upon justice was ever in the long run refused; while no change for the benefit of the body politic, the great mass of the people, was ever ultimately averted,—there was at least this advantage arising from almost interminable discussion, that the only possible danger attendant on change was altogether obviated. He alluded to the feelings of insecurity, of instability in the public mind, which hasty, he would not say ill-considered, change, might be calculated to inspire. In this great and free country every change, every reform was debated, till all argument was exhausted, and reform ceasing to wear the appearance of change, ceased to bear the character of innovation. (Hear, hear.) Before it actually occurred, it had become a part, by anticipation as it were, of the national mind; and everybody felt that when it absolutely occurred, it was but the consummation of that mental process which had been brewing in the heart and mind of every individual. (Cheers.) Well, at that stage he thought they should arrive in the Church-rate reform. (Hear, hear.) Success was not only certain, not only inevitable, it was also imminent. But that last step they must take—that last progress and triumph they must accomplish, as they had every other. Hope nothing from anybody else. (Hear, hear.) Hope nothing from the Government. (Cheers.) If ever the great truth, that all organic change, however valuable—that all reforms proceed from the people—if ever that great truth needed illustration, it was given in the last session of Parliament. He spoke in no spirit hostile to the Government. He should be ashamed of himself if he could permit any personal pique at the mode in which he was himself treated, to interfere with his feelings upon a great public question with regard to the Government. He approved of them, generally. He gave them, generally, his support. He believed they had ably conducted the affairs of the country. In a very recent instance, he believed that by mingled sagacity and firmness they had conferred not only advantage and honour on their country, but infinite advantage to the interests of liberty throughout the world. (Cheers.) While entertaining these feelings towards the Government of Lord Palmerston, he was bound to say that the figure they cut upon this great question of religious liberty was to the last degree discreditable. (Laughter and cheers.) The Cabinet adopted the principle of entire abolition. (Hear, hear.) They said, “if you will assent to certain amendments, we, the Government, will adopt the measure.” They who had the conduct of the measure in Parliament did not conceive that these amendments were alien in principle to the great object of the bill. Though far from thinking that they improved the measure—on the contrary, that they injured it—yet, as they were not alien to it in principle, and as they thought the adoption of the amendments might have the effect of securing the assistance of the Government in carrying the measure through the House of Lords, and that they might thus expedite relief to a Government proposition of their fellow-countrymen, they assented to those amendments. In the opinion of the House and of the world, Government adopted

the measure, and they were bound in honesty and principle to give the friends of the measure their best assistance. (Hear, hear.) Well, what happened? The leader of the House of Commons could never find a convenient time to bring it on. (Cries of “Shame.”) The noble lord was urged not only by himself, the individual honoured with the confidence of the party in the House of Commons who were seeking this reform, but a memorial was also presented to him, signed by one or two hundred liberal members of the House (it might have been signed by double the number) urging upon him the progress of the measure. The session, however, passed away under the plea that there was no time to find a day for the purpose. The best proof that that was not the reason, but a pretext—(hear, hear)—was this, that this year, with the whole session before them, when the Government might have brought forward a similar measure, or a measure modified in some degree for the abolition of Church-rates, they had declined to do anything of the kind. (Hear, hear.) He disdained to make any comments—as he had said before, he thought well of the Government generally—he should abstain on the present occasion from making any comments, and should confine himself to a bare historical relation of the facts. In point of fact, his advice to them applied not to the Government of Lord Palmerston alone, it applied to all Governments. Depend on no Government. It was the very nature of a Government that they should undertake no organic or difficult change, however desirable. (Hear.) Like the gods of Læretius, they desired to pass a pleasant time, undisturbed by the clamours of the people. The individuals who composed that Government having struggled in the arena of political warfare, and won their high position, they desired to retain that position at the cheapest price, by performing well their ordinary official duties. That which they hated and detested was to have their tranquillity disturbed by the attempt to make any organic change, however beneficial. They had been told on high authority not to put their trust in princes. His advice to them was that they should add to that category: “Put not your trust in Prime Ministers.” (Laughter and cheers.) Trust themselves, and themselves alone. (Hear, hear.) The men he saw around him were specimens of what the advocates of religious freedom were throughout the country. He appealed to them to arouse, concentrate, and direct public attention; to pour it in a volume upon the Legislature; to address individually the members of that Legislature; and to supply to the Government the only motive which would ever make them act—that was to say, let them understand that the people would endure no further trifling. (Loud cheers.) For himself, they need not doubt his earnestness. (Cheers.) Long acquaintance with this question, intimate searching into its merits, had given him the profoundest conviction of the truth and justice of their cause. (Cheers.) In addition, he had all the earnestness which every man felt who had long pursued an object he intensely desired without having yet accomplished it. He confessed that he should be proud to associate with a political career, now of no short duration, and, of course, drawing towards its close, he should be proud to associate with it the glorious consummation of this great question. (Loud cheers.) Lend him their assistance as they had hitherto done, and he did not despair of success, of success not only certain but imminent.

The honourable baronet resumed his seat amid great cheering.

The CHAIRMAN said the secretary would read letters from gentlemen who were absent.

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS, the Secretary, stated that letters had been received from Mr. Tite, M.P., Mr. J. I. Travers, Mr. S. Courtauld, Mr. A. Pellatt, M.P., Mr. S. Moreley, Mr. Sharman Crawford, Alderman Salomons, and Mr. M. Gibson, M.P., explaining the cause of their absence.

In the absence of Mr. Milner Gibson, M.P., the CHAIRMAN called upon Mr. Lindsay, M.P., to respond upon the special point of Hebrew Emancipation.

Mr. LINDSAY, M.P., said he had only one regret connected with the duty he was called upon to perform, and that was the absence of his friend Mr. Milner Gibson, who would have done far greater justice to the toast than he could pretend to do. It had been his lot, as he had risen in public life, to be called upon to respond to commercial sentiments, to “Ships, Colonies, and Commerce,” to “Shipping,” to “Commercial Progress;” but he had never been called upon to respond to religious progress. But, though he had never spoken on such subjects as these, and had been called upon unexpectedly, he was sure they would excuse the faltering of the tongue when they knew the heart was with it. He was an advocate for religious liberty in the fullest sense of the word. He could not be otherwise, as a member of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland through a long descent. He could not boast of proud descent, of high origin, but he could boast of being a descendant, an humble descendant, of one of the old Covenanters in Scotland, who sacrificed his life, his all, for the cause of religious liberty. Upon the subject of Hebrew emancipation he had taken a deep interest. The denial of liberty to the Jew was one of the last rays of religious intolerance. He was surprised at the course which had been taken connected with this question. At a general election, whatever the candidate's views might be, whether Whig, Radical, or bigoted Conservative, if he was asked upon the hustings, “Are you an advocate of religious liberty?” he dare not say “No!”—(hear, hear)—so strong was the feeling throughout the country in favour of religious liberty. Yet with all this the question of Hebrew emancipation was still unsettled



With such feelings as these throughout the length and breadth of the land, he was surprised if they could not pass this question through the Legislature. His friend, Mr. Milner Gibson, carried it through the House of Commons last session, but it stopped at the very threshold of the House of Lords. (Hear, hear.) It did not go through the form of a discussion there. The usual supporters of the Government in the House of Lords were absent, and the bishops had it all their own way. (A laugh.) Why, the very name of religious liberty seemed to be treated by some people in high quarters, in spite of the popular cry, in spite of the universal feeling, as a farce and a delusion. But the people of this country would not stand it long. This question having passed the Lower House, they would demand that it should pass the Upper House. They could say, and say with justice, and the people of London could speak with a strong voice upon it, "We have more than once returned a member to the House of Commons, and you deny him the exercise of those rights which we say he possesses, you deny him the right to sit in the House. The Jews fill almost every other office, one of them filled the highest office in the city of London last year, filled it with honour to himself—(cheers)—yet you say he cannot represent his Jewish brethren in the House of Commons." What right had the House of Commons to tax the Jews of this country if they did not allow the representative of their race to protect their interests in this question of taxation? (Hear, hear.) He maintained that the Jews of this country could demand admission into the House of Commons as a civil right, while he demanded it for them upon the higher ground of religious freedom. (Cheers.) He hoped the question would be again brought forward this session, by his honourable friend, and he hoped it would receive still stronger support than it received in the House of Commons last year. He did hope this, too, that if it did not pass the House of Lords, which they could hardly expect for a session or two, that the Government would at least allow it to be fairly, openly, honestly, and candidly discussed there upon its merits, and that the House would listen with the attention they deserved to the statements and arguments which some noble lords were prepared to bring forward in favour of this great question. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN called upon Dr. Foster to propose the next toast, "Our Friends in the House of Commons."

Dr. FOSTER first called attention to the decided difference between the sentiments expressed that evening and upon any former occasion. In former times they had contented themselves with expressing, no doubt with all the energy of which they were capable, the sentiment, "Civil and religious liberty all over the world." If they would notice the programme which had been laid before them, they would observe that a decided step in advance had been taken. They had spoken of civil and religious liberty as an essential element in Liberal policy, and they had followed that up by pointing at the practical measures which they conceived ought to occupy the attention of a Liberal House of Commons. On the present occasion they had stated things which they wanted to be done, not sentiments which they wanted to be declared. And he thought they would see that in thus giving practical expression to their wishes they had arrived at a course far more likely to be productive of success than merely repeating the barren cry, which, as Mr. Barnes had told them, he really wondered to hear again. He (Dr. Foster) confessed his wonder that they had been upwards of twenty years trying to give practical expression to a sentiment which no man could refute who heard it. It was quite true, as stated by Mr. Lindsay, that if any man were asked on the hustings if he was in favour of civil and religious liberty, he would not think of giving an answer in the negative; but yet, when asked if they would vote for the total and immediate abolition of Church-rates, if they would vote for the separation of the Church from the State, if they would vote for the discontinuance of that great ecclesiastical nuisance, the Irish Church, all sorts of evasive answers were returned; the greatest possible difficulty was experienced in getting a plain and positive yes or no, to a plain and positive question. He could not but impress upon his friends present, who might be considered as representing the opinion of all parts of the country, the absolute necessity of asking for a distinct answer to a distinct question upon each of the three points mentioned in the programme. They had been told by Sir W. Clay, and he was gratified to hear the sentiment from his lips, that if they wished to do anything they must trust themselves, they must not trust any Government. They professed to be governed by a Liberal Ministry, a Government that would not say "nay" to a single sentiment expressed that evening; yet they found that Government strangling their measures in the very birth. Their difficulty was not now in the House of Commons; their difficulty was not now in the House of Lords; but their difficulty was with the Liberal Ministry of the day. (Hear.) This was not the time to consider what ought to be the reciprocal duties of allegiance between a Ministry and its supporters; but he thought he might say that the present Government were entitled absolutely to that allegiance and support from the party in the House representing the principle of religious liberty which that party obtained from the Government upon questions in which they were interested. (Hear.) If their friends in the House would adopt this course, he believed they would be backed by their constituencies to a degree never before experienced since they had sat in the present House of Commons. Members, however, could not be expected to take upon themselves the responsibility of votes which might lead to an alteration of the Ministry, unless they were certain they were acting

upon the sentiments of those who sent them to Parliament. It was not so much a question for the members as a question for the constituencies; and the question he would call upon the constituencies to decide was this, whether they would have a Liberal Ministry without Liberal measures, or whether they would have liberal measures without a Liberal Ministry? ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) He would most sincerely urge this question, because we were not far off from a general election. (Hear, hear.) He appealed to the constituencies to encourage their representatives, and determine for them whether they should any longer support a Ministry which did not support them. Thus far, they owed nothing to the Ministry; they owed something to themselves; but they owed a great deal to the members whom they had sent to the House. He begged to propose "Our Friends in the House of Commons," and to couple with the toast the name of Mr. Cheetham, the representative of the largest constituency in the United Kingdom.

The toast was drunk with cheers.

Mr. CHEETHAM, M.P., in responding to the toast, said, it was now four years ago since many members of the House of Commons assembled in that room to discuss topics similar to those which occupied attention on the present occasion, and to open what was to several of them the first parliamentary session. It then fell to his lot to point out a line of conduct which he deemed it to be his duty to pursue as a representative, on the one hand, of a large class of Nonconformists, and on the other, a still larger number of persons belonging to various other communities. The line of policy he then sketched out was this, that whilst he was prepared never to forget the views which he held on religious matters, and on those important questions to which allusion had been made to-night, he desired also to remember that he belonged to the great Liberal party of the House of Commons. It was with much pleasure that he heard the various speakers who followed him adopt the sentiments he then announced; and, in looking back to the position of affairs four years ago, he was fully convinced, notwithstanding the somewhat desponding views of his friend, Mr. Barnes, that progress had been made, and that the Nonconformist members of the House of Commons had pursued that wise and judicious course which became gentlemen representing large constituencies. (Hear.) He trusted that this course would continue to be pursued; for although there were now a much larger number of Nonconformists in the House of Commons than at any previous period, it was only by uniting with the whole body of Liberal members that they could hope to accomplish many great practical objects for the good of the nation. He rejoiced to believe that all the prognostications of impracticability that were uttered with respect to the Nonconformist members four years ago, had proved utterly false. (Hear, hear.) But he did think that, while it would be impolitic and foolish to manifest a narrow-minded spirit, the time was approaching, and, in fact, rapidly drawing on when a very decided stand must be taken on important measures—(cheers)—and when the great forbearance which they had shown to a professedly Liberal Government must cease. (Hear, hear.) Their language to the Ministers of the day must be, We have long enough treated you with generosity, and given you our support, and we must now demand, as a condition of our continuing so to do, that you will give us your help in return. (Cheers.) If the Nonconformist members were to take that course, the days of any Liberal Government which refused to concur, were numbered. (Hear.) Mr. Cheetham explained the reason for his votes on Mr. Spooner's motion against Maynooth. He strongly disclaimed, both for himself and his friends, all sympathy with the spirit and principle of Mr. Spooner's act; they felt that they must take questions as they arise, and deal with them on their real merits, without reference to the opinions of those by whom they were introduced. They believed that if one religious endowment was destroyed the whole would subsequently follow. Again, he must state his conviction that some, and considerable progress, had been made during the last four years, but he trusted that the progress of the future would be still more rapid than it had been in the past. (Hear, hear.)

Sir MORTON PETO, who on rising was loudly cheered, said that before he proposed the toast entrusted to him he desired to make a very few prefatory observations. He was very anxious that in the present day Dissenting members of Parliament should not be called upon to regard all public questions exclusively from a Dissenting stand-point. He did not believe that any man could be a Nonconformist who did not claim for himself and for his fellow-subjects the most perfect religious equality, but while he takes his stand there he must be desirous to see great public questions carried that do not fully meet his views, and therefore he must be prepared to deal with all questions as one of a liberal community, and to remember that various views and opinions have to be consulted. Nonconformists were not fighting alone, but with not a few who are conscientious members of the Church of England, and he believed that by such a union more real general benefit was accomplished. Only yesterday he was talking with two distinguished members of the Canadian Legislature, supporters of the Episcopal Church, and he asked them what had been the effect of the commutation of the Clergy Reserves. They replied, it was the best thing for the Church that ever happened. It threw us on our own resources; and the Church has twice as much support now as she had before. (Cheers.) The conviction that the Voluntary principle in such matters is the best, he believed to be spreading amongst Churchmen in England, and he referred to certain recent articles in the *Times* in proof

of what he believed to be the fact, that a new view on this subject had taken possession of the public mind. His *beau ideal* of the manner in which questions should be dealt with in Parliament, was embodied in the member for Rochdale's speech on the Irish Church. Sir Morton concluded by proposing the health of the chairman, who responded in a few words, and the proceedings terminated.

#### PUBLIC PETITIONS TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The following rules must be observed in the preparation and presentation of petitions to the House of Commons: Every member presenting a petition to the House must affix his name at the beginning thereof. Every petition must be written, and not printed or lithographed. Every petition must contain a prayer. Every petition must be signed by at least one person on the skin or sheet on which it is written. Every petition must be written in the English language, or be accompanied by a translation certified by the member who shall present it. Every petition must be signed by the parties whose names are appended thereto by their names, or marks, and by no one else except in cases of incapacity by sickness. No letters, affidavits, or other documents, may be attached to any petition. No erasures or interlineations may be made in any petition. No reference may be made to any debate in Parliament. No application may be made for any grant of public money, except with the consent of the Crown. No application may be made for a charge upon the revenues of India, except with the consent of the Crown. All petitions, after they have been ordered to lie upon the table, are referred to the committee on Public Petitions, without any question being put; but if any such petition relate to any matter or subject with respect to which the member presenting it has given notice of a motion, and the said petition has not been ordered to be printed by the committee, such member may, after notice given, move that such petition be printed with the votes.

The Emperor of Russia is positively expected at Berlin in the month of April, on his way through Paris to Nice.

The Austrian general in the command of the troops in Bologna died recently from eating a hundred oysters of the largest size at one sitting.

Accounts from St. Petersburg up to the 7th inst. give a very melancholy picture of the continued general distress and want, bordering upon positive famine, existing throughout the Grand Duchy of Finland.

The following extract of a private letter was posted yesterday at Lloyd's: "Cairo, Feb. 5, 1857. We have had a very narrow escape last night. A conspiracy had been planned to destroy the treasure train, by taking up the rails near this city, and, in the confusion of a dreadful accident, to plunder the trunks of the specie, amounting to 400,000*l.*, brought by the Pera, steamship. It was discovered in time, and about 130 of the ringleaders had been apprehended."

Ferouk Khan is expected to leave for London in a few days. The French Government is most anxious that the affair should be settled between England and Persia. It is thought that the Neapolitan affair is in a way of settlement, through the (non-official) instrumentality of M. Hatzfeldt, the Prussian Ambassador in Paris.—*Times Paris Correspondent.*

On Tuesday afternoon, some hundreds of men represented to belong to the unemployed artisans of London assembled in the north-east corner of Smithfield, for the purpose of hearing an address from Mr. Ernest Jones, who spoke upwards of two hours in condemnation of the Government, the aristocracy, and of our system of legislation generally, dwelling at the same time on the excellences of the people's charter. At half-past two the vast meeting quietly dispersed.

A deputation from the Grocers' Commercial Association had an interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Tuesday, on both the tea and sugar questions. They strongly urged the Chancellor to adopt a fixed duty for three years in lieu of his proposed sliding scale. If we may judge from the Minister's concluding observation, they are likely to achieve their object.

A most fearful and alarming casualty occurred on the Tynemouth branch of the North Eastern line on Friday night. The express train for Tynemouth left Newcastle at the usual time. The train ran at a very high speed, and when within a quarter of a mile of Shields those in the train were all thrown together by the carriage jolting off the ways, and shortly after the train brought up with a sudden crash. On getting out, those who had recovered from the shock observed one carriage thrown upside down across an opposite pair of rails, and another hanging halfway over a parapet of a bridge crossing a turnpike to this town. The engine had left the train and was out of sight. The fact was, an axle-tree of the first carriage had broken, and thrown the body of the carriage off the springs across the line. The other carriages had also been thrown off the rails, and had run several yards, tearing everything before them until they were brought up by the wall of the bridge. As soon as possible, assistance was rendered to the wounded, who were got out from amongst the broken carriages with all speed, and, fortunately, Sir John Fife was in the train, and he rendered every assistance to them. The most seriously-injured were Mr. Ditchon, a Custom-house officer, who, unfortunately, happened to be an invalid; one of his arms is broken in two places, and he is otherwise hurt; Mr. and Miss Green, of Whitley, and a Dutch merchant named Van Hart.



## THE CHURCH-RATE ABOLITION BILL.

Sir W. Clay's new bill to abolish Church-rates, which was read a first time on Thursday, enacts that no Church-rate shall be made or levied in England or Wales; with a proviso as to sums borrowed and salaries charged on Church-rates by statute, in which case rates may be levied to pay off the debts and the salaries in question. The act will not extend to Scotland or Ireland. The second reading is fixed for March 25. On the motion for the second reading of the Church-rates Abolition Bill, Lord Robert Cecil will move that it be read a second time upon that day six months. We believe that the committee of laymen formed to oppose the bill, which includes the names of Sir J. Pakington, Mr. Spooner, Lord John Manners, and other influential Conservatives, are making great efforts to obtain petitions from the country in support of their views. The *Record* calls upon the friends of Church-rates to support the committee in withstanding the attack about to be made upon them this session, "with pecuniary help at once," and kindly offers to take charge of any money that may be forwarded for this purpose. We trust, the friends of abolition will put forth their strength this session by counter-petitions, and thus give to Sir W. Clay that moral support which may show Ministers that their present attitude of indifference is fraught with danger to themselves and their supporters.

## IRISH DISENDOWMENT.

On Thursday, Mr. Miall, M.P., gave notice that he will move, on an early day, "that, regard being had to the circumstances of the people of Ireland, the support of religious teaching and worship in that country by public endowments, or parliamentary grants, is practically incompatible with the claim to impartial treatment which all religious bodies have upon the State." The motion is not likely, we believe, to come on before Easter.

In connexion with the above, we may state that this day (Thursday) Mr. Spooner will move his Maynooth resolution in the following form: "That this House do resolve itself into a committee for the purpose of considering the acts for the endowment of the College of Maynooth, with a view to the withdrawal of any endowment out of the Consolidated Fund, due regard being had to vested rights or interests." Mr. Spooner's motion stands third on the list of notices, being preceded by one on the part of Mr. Locke King for leave to bring in a bill for giving a county ten pound franchise, and by a second from Mr. Fagan, who will move for leave to bring in a bill to abolish the tax in lieu of ministers' money, now imposed on eight corporate towns in Ireland. It is possible that these two questions may occupy the whole evening, and prevent Mr. Spooner bringing on his motion. Should the resolution be carried, it will then be necessary to bring in a bill to give it effect.

## LIBERATION OF RELIGION SOCIETY.

A meeting of the committee of this Society for Edinburgh and the neighbourhood, was held on Friday, the 6th instant, in Queen-street Hall, to confer with Mr. Pryce, the Secretary from London. Councillor Fyfe was called to the chair. Mr. George Laing was appointed Treasurer, and Mr. John Knox Crauford, S.S.C., Secretary, to the auxiliary. Free interchange of opinion took place among the gentlemen present, as to the present working of the Society, more especially in relation to the movement for impartial and simultaneous disendowment in Ireland, which commended itself as worthy of hearty support. Arrangements were made, of which the public will be duly apprised, to give expression to the popular sentiment in this city in support of the motion in the House of Commons of Mr. Edward Miall.—*Scottish Press*.

A social meeting of the members and friends of the Society for the Liberation of Religion from State Patronage and Control, was held in the Scientific Hall, Dalkieth, on the evening of Wednesday, the 11th inst. The Rev. A. F. Gowan in the chair, when the Rev. E. S. Pryce, who is at present in Scotland, attended as a deputy from the Executive Committee in London, and gave a very full and interesting account of the proceedings of the association for the past year, and explained the policy intended to be pursued in the present session of Parliament, in reference to Church-rates, and the Irish Church question. The meeting was afterwards addressed by the Rev. Dr. Brown, and others, who expressed their unabated attachment to the principles and objects of the Society, and their thanks to Mr. Pryce for his able address.

**THE BISHOP OF ST. DAVID'S.—ANOTHER SWANSEA BURIAL BOARD.**—On Wednesday, a numerously attended meeting was held at Swansea to consider the question at issue between the burial board and the Bishop of St. David's, who refuses to consecrate the cemetery grounds because the burial board decline to furnish the vicar with a conveyance to the burial grounds (about a mile from his residence) whenever his services are required. The mayor, in the threefold capacity of churchman, churchwarden, and member of the burial board, occupied the chair. Several speakers addressed the meeting at great length. Resolutions

condemnatory of the Bishop, and expressing satisfaction at the conduct of the burial board, were at once passed. The meeting was a very stormy one.

**THE NEW CANON OF SALISBURY CATHEDRAL.**—The Lord Chancellor has presented the Hon. and Rev. S. Waldegrave, Rector of Barford St. Martin, to the Canonry in Salisbury Cathedral, vacant by the appointment of the Rev. R. Bickersteth to the bishopric of Ripon. Mr. Waldegrave took a double first class at Oxford in 1839. In 1853 he delivered a course of Bampton Lectures on the Second Advent of our Lord. He is the second son of Admiral the Earl of Waldegrave, C.B., whose eldest son, Viscount Chewton, died at the Scutari Hospital in 1854, from the effects of wounds received from the Russians at the battle of the Alma. He does not belong to the High Church.

**THE CLERGY RESERVES IN CANADA.**—The question of the independence and self-government of the Church in Canada is, we are informed, now under discussion in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. In 1853 the Imperial Parliament passed an act enabling the Canadian Legislature to deal with the clergy reserves, which formed the endowment of the clergy of the province. In 1854 the Provincial Legislature alienated this property to secular purposes, subject to giving a life interest, as was required by the Imperial act, to the existing holders. The Church, being thus stripped of her State endowments, desired to be liberated from State control, and with this intent, in 1855, the local Parliament unanimously passed a bill to enable the Church to hold synods for the management of its own affairs, including the electing and deposing of its own officers of every order or degree whatsoever, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding. By the law of Canada, bills become law upon receiving the assent of the governor, and remain so, unless disallowed from home within two years; or the governor may withhold his assent and remit the bill for the advice of the authorities at home to certify. This is what has been done with the bill, and it is now being argued before the Privy Council whether the bill contravenes the ecclesiastical prerogative of the Crown.—*The "Union."*

## Religious Intelligence.

**AIREDALE AND HORTON COLLEGES.**—A very interesting meeting of the students belonging to the Independent and Baptist Theological Institutions at Bradford took place on Friday last. The meeting was held at Horton College, in terms of an invitation from the Baptist students, and a muster of nearly forty collegians was the result. Dr. Ackworth, the president of Horton College, was, to the regret of all, unavoidably absent; but Professors Green and Daniel favoured the company with their presence during a part of the evening, as did also the Rev. Messrs. Chown, of Bradford; Walcott of Sutton; and Bowden, of Hunslet, formerly students at Horton. After tea, an appropriate devotional exercise was followed by short addresses from the tutors, congratulating the students on their cultivation, mutually, of feelings so cordially fraternal as the present reunion evinced, and throwing out some admirable hints bearing on their present pursuits and their future prospects. Several hours were afterwards spent in free and profitable social intercourse, and the outward and mutually avowed expressions of kindness and regard were evidently produced by the sincerest affection and sympathy. It was gratifying to witness so large a number of the rising ministry of the two great Dissenting denominations assembled together with one accord in one place, and in the full spontaneous flow of Christian charity and brotherly love, "agreeing to differ" on what are at best but really minor topics, and mingling with common sympathy on the ample ground common to both.

**BIRMINGHAM.**—On Wednesday evening, Feb. 4th, a united meeting of the various Baptist Churches and congregations in Birmingham was held in Cannon-street Chapel, to wish farewell to, and supplicate the Divine blessing on, the Rev. James Taylor, who for more than five years has been the minister of Henegastreet Chapel, Ashted, and who is about to proceed to Australia, under the auspices of the committee of the Baptist Missionary Society, as their messenger, to inquire into the religious condition of the Baptist denomination in that country, and to report the result of his inquiries. The chair was taken by William Middlemore, Esq. The Rev. M. Kent read the hymns. The Rev. C. Vince read the Scriptures, and offered the introductory prayer. The Rev. J. J. Brown addressed the congregation, and the Rev. T. Swan delivered the valedictory address to Mr. Taylor. The Rev. J. Taylor then replied. Mr. William Morgan, in an appropriate speech, then submitted a resolution, which was seconded by Mr. J. H. Hopkins, expressing the warm sympathies of the several churches in Birmingham with the pastor they were about to lose. The resolution was unanimously passed; and after a few words addressed to Mr. Taylor by the chairman, the Rev. Isaac New offered up the valedictory prayer and pronounced the blessing. On the following evening a reunion of the present and former pupils of Mr. Taylor's various classes took place under his presidency. It was attended by upwards of 150 young people of both sexes, and, at the close, the presentation of a handsome gold watch was made by one of the elder scholars.

**CHISHILL, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.—VALEDICTORY SERVICES.**—The Rev. James Mirams, after nine years of indefatigable labour, has resigned his pastoral charge of the Church and congregation at Chishill; and on Tuesday, February 2, valedictory services were held, preparatory to his departure for Australia. In the afternoon a sermon was preached by the Rev. R. E.

Forsyth, of Royston. In the evening a public meeting was held, presided over by Franklin Allport, Esq., of London, who bore honourable testimony to Mr. Mirams' metropolitan labours. An address from the Church and congregation at Chishill was read, in which they spoke in the highest terms of the blameless life, the efficient ministrations, and uniform devotedness of their retiring pastor. The Rev. R. E. Forsyth read an address from the ministers of the Royston Fraternal Association, assuring Mr. Mirams of the high esteem his brethren felt for him, the pleasure they had derived from their intercourse with him, and their impression of his ministerial talents; referred to the important services he had rendered to the neighbourhood, and concluded by uttering the most affectionate wishes for his welfare. Thomas Savell, Esq., of Barley, then rose, and in a few brief remarks gave utterance to the regret felt at this separation, and the pleasure he had in presenting, on behalf of the subscribers, a testimonial purse of one hundred guineas; the contributors to which embraced almost every section of professing Christians (including Episcopalians, and friends living in various places in the neighbourhood, and not a few in London), who expressed by this means their sympathy with Mr. Mirams in his ministerial and educational labours. Mr. Mirams suitably responded. The Rev. Mr. Kelley, of Demerara, then addressed the meeting. He referred to Mr. Mirams' missionary career in British Guiana; stated how great was the disappointment felt by the Church at Berbice that Mr. Mirams was not permitted to settle among them as their Independent pastor; how highly they esteemed him, and how gladly they would even now, after the lapse of twenty years, welcome him amongst them. In addition to the ministers mentioned, the Revs. Messrs. Booker, of Barrington; Flood, of Melbourne; Perkins, of Duxford; and Smith, of Langley, were present to pay their parting respects to a most devoted minister. Mr. Mirams leaves the neighbourhood with high reputation, and his departure is most sincerely lamented; it is felt to be a loss not easily replaced. He carries with him the best wishes and affections of many of the wise and good, who devoutly bid him God speed.—*Cambridge Independent Press*.

**DUNSTON TABERNACLE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**—The Rev. E. H. Shadrach, having resigned his ministry in the above place, in consequence of accepting an unanimous invitation to the Tabernacle, Pembroke Dock, the deacons waited on him, on Thursday last, and presented him with a purse of fifty sovereigns, as a token of esteem, and as an affectionate recognition of his faithful labours during a period of twenty-two years. In the list of contributors were the names of several persons belonging to other denominations—as also those of the two clergymen of the parish. Besides the fifty sovereigns, Mr. Shadrach has received from unknown generous friends in the same locality ten pounds more, making in all 60*l*.

**LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.**—A special meeting, both of the town and country directors of this society, was held on Tuesday last, to consider the measures proper to be adopted as the result of Dr. Livingston's extensive missionary journeys and discoveries in the hitherto unexplored regions of South Africa. The meeting was numerously attended, including representatives from many of the principal auxiliaries in the country. It was unanimously determined, in accordance with the views of Dr. Livingston, previously embodied in the report of the South African Missions Committee, that immediate steps should be taken for the establishment, in the first instance, of two principal stations, the one on the north of the great river Zambesi, among the Makololo; and the other on the south, among the Matabele, the subjects of the great chief Moselekate. It will be remembered, that that veteran missionary the Rev. Robert Moffat made a second visit to this powerful chief about two years since; and there is every reason to conclude, that Moselekate would be delighted to receive Mr. Moffat and missionary associates into his country, and to extend to them not only protection but friendship. It may be anticipated no less confidently, that the tribes of the Makololo would welcome Dr. Livingston as a resident Christian teacher; and, as these tribes have hitherto been objects of the hostility of Moselekate, there is the strongest ground to hope that, by the influence of these two well-known and acknowledged friends of both parties, their mutual deadly strife would be allayed. It is intended that fellow labourers should be employed both with Mr. Moffat and with Dr. Livingston; and some of these, it is thought, may be found in South Africa, already acquainted with the Sichwauha language. The indefatigable Moffat has, by this time, completed the translation of the entire Scriptures into that language, and consequently will be at liberty, leaving his own station under the care of his colleague, Mr. Ashton, to proceed in the execution of this great enterprise, and, as we trust, will be spared to see a new mission, more than 600 miles in advance of the Kuruman, firmly established.

**MALDON.**—The Rev. Robert Burl, for more than thirty-six years the pastor of the Independent Church, Maldon, Essex, resigned his charge on Sunday, the 1st instant. The public announcement of his intention was followed first by a meeting of the members of the Church, who passed resolutions kindly recognising his past ministerial services, and expressing their earnest desire that he would reconsider the subject, and decide to remain the pastor of the Church.

MR. SPURGEON, we regret to say, was obliged to conclude his sermon in the Surrey Music-hall, on Sunday morning, somewhat abruptly. His voice failed, and it is feared that his strength is giving way under the extraordinary exertions he has been lately making. The audience were evidently much concerned by the enfeeblement and pain he appeared to



be suffering. A bishop is said to have been amongst the crowd that flocked to hear the young pulpit orator on Sunday week.

Mr. HUGH OWEN, who, after eleven years of arduous service, has lately retired from the office of deacon of the Church at Claremont Chapel, Pentonville, was on the 11th instant presented with a handsome testimonial, in token of the esteem and gratitude of the Church and congregation to whose interests he has, through a long series of years, been earnestly devoted. A large company assembled in the school-rooms on the occasion, and, after tea, the Rev. A. M. Henderson, the new pastor, presented the testimonial—a timepiece in marble, surmounted with bronze figures, and with an inscription. Mr. Owen, in acknowledging the gift, furnished some interesting particulars respecting the past history of the Church, and expressed his gratification at the recognition of his fidelity to the late Rev. J. Blackburn, of whose Christian integrity he had never had the slightest doubt, and whose memory he, and those around him, would ever regard with deep affection. Addresses were also delivered by John Hughes, Esq., George Knox, Esq., J. Carvell Williams, Esq., and several other gentlemen, some of whom referred to Mr. Owen's exertions in the cause of education, in connexion with the Denmark-terrace British Schools, and more recently in support of the projected Normal College for North Wales. The proceedings closed with an address from Mr. Henderson, who said that he derived great encouragement from the fact that he had become connected with a people whose faithful attachment to those who sought to serve them had been shown both in past events, and by the statements made that evening.

**RAGGED-SCHOOL SHOEBLACKS.**—On Thursday night, the usual annual treat to the boys forming the Shoeblick Brigade of the various schools in the metropolis took place at St. Martin's Hall; Lord Shaftesbury was in the chair. The boys having been plentifully supplied with plumcake, tea, and bread and butter, the chairman addressed them in an earnest manner, begging them to adopt habits of industry, of honesty, and morality. A number of gentlemen then addressed the meeting on the progress of the boys during the last year, and gave some statistics in connexion with them. It appeared that in the City of London alone, during the last twelve months, no less a sum had been earned by these boys in blacking shoes than 2,771*l*. During the last ten months the Red Brigade had earned a total sum of 1,445*l*; this was earned by fifty-four boys on an average, being about 12*s*. per week for each boy. 6*s*. per week of this was given to the boy to subsist upon, 3*s*. set apart for him in the savings' bank, and the remaining 3*s*. went towards the expenses of the society. The Blue Brigade had not been so successful, owing to their numbers being smaller and their standings not so profitable; their total earnings for the year amounted to 600*l*., earned by forty-four boys. The Yellow Brigade had a total of 530*l*., their numbers being still less. Several of the best boys, those who had distinguished themselves by their good conduct and the amount of their earnings, representing each of the brigades, were then brought to the platform and received from the chairman medals in reward of their good conduct.

**TIPPING-STREET CHAPEL, MANCHESTER.**—On Thursday, Feb. 12, the Rev. S. Lewin, late of Chorley, was publicly recognised as the minister of the above-named chapel. The Rev. J. Muncaster read the Scriptures and prayed. Rev. A. Thompson, M.A., delivered an admirable discourse on the "Principles of Congregationalism;" Rev. Dr. Clunie offered the recognition prayer; Rev. J. Spencer, of Chinley, delivered an address to the Church and congregation, in which he gave them affectionate and practical counsels; and, at the same time, bore a high testimony to the character and suitableness of the recently-elected minister for this important sphere of labour.

**WEST HOUGHTON, LANCASHIRE.**—On Wednesday evening, Feb. 4, a public tea-party was held in the Bethel Independent Sunday-school, West Houghton, to welcome the Rev. Joseph Carter, who has just settled as pastor there. The school-room, tastefully decorated with evergreens and appropriate mottoes, was densely crowded. The meeting was addressed by the Revs. Messrs. Roaf, of Wigan; Best, of Bolton; Turner, of Hindley; Hardaker, of Horwich; and other friends. I. Hanson, Esq., of Manchester, presided. The whole of the proceedings were of a highly gratifying character.

**YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION IN AID OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.**—The fourth of the series of lectures in course of delivery at the Mission House, Moorgate-street, was delivered on Friday evening last, by the Rev. John Stoughton, of Kensington, Chairman of the Congregational Union. The subject of the lecture was, "The Verification of Scripture in Human History and Experience." Sir Morton Peto presided.

## Correspondence.

### UNITARIAN M.P.'s.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.  
SIR,—I cannot doubt but that the article in the *Inquirer*, to which you call attention in your Paper of the 11th inst., will draw forth many indignant protests from individuals of the Unitarian body. I read it with pain and surprise. I repudiate its spirit and its argument, and I must think that the Unitarian Members of Parliament can have but little sense or principle if they are influenced by it in the smallest degree. The editor of the *Inquirer* draws largely on his imagination, and represents the Church of England as liberal in her creed, and mild in her sway, for the purpose of presenting orthodox Dissent in unfavourable contrast. But all the facts of history are against him. The Church, as by law established, has been the great enemy of theological pro-

gress; and it would not be difficult to prove that its stereotyped creeds, received as true by the majority of its adherents, without doubt or inquiry, present a greater obstacle to the spread of Unitarianism than any amount of bitterness and inconsistency on the part of Evangelical Dissenters.

The *Inquirer* says: "We approve of the principle of a national Church, and as English Presbyterians, have more love for the Church of England than for the Independents or the Baptists." The editor here speaks of his own individual taste. His opinion should not compromise the body of Unitarians, which, I believe, he misrepresents. It strikes me that a man who approves of the principle of a National Church has no business to call himself a Dissenter or to separate himself from that National Church. His duty is to identify himself with the principle, to remain in union with it, seeking by internal action, and not by external agency, to introduce such reforms as he may deem necessary.

The *Inquirer* can scarcely be termed a representative paper. Its small circulation is a proof of this. It is far behind the body of which it professes to be the exponent. I believe that the majority of Unitarians never see it; and very few of those who read it attach much importance to its advocacy. Its sectarian intelligence is useful, but its leadership is without influence. The article in question is a retrogradation that every friend of progress should condemn. Disguise it as we may, Dissent says to the people, "Think for yourselves;" Establishments say, "Believe what you are told." The first gives light to the man, the last gives power to the priest. I know that there are illiberal Dissenters and liberal Churchmen, but it must never be forgotten that the one is worse, and the other is better than his creed.

But is it true, as a rule, that Unitarians are treated with more intolerance by the orthodox minister of the Dissenter than by the Low Church clergyman? I will answer the question by relating my own experience. I lived in one of the largest towns in the south of England for many years, and I do not hesitate to assert that I could name two clergymen there who say more bitter things of Unitarians in one year than all the Dissenting ministers would utter in the whole course of their lives. The most violent and unscrupulous antagonists, not only of Unitarianism as a creed, but of Unitarians as men, are to be found among the orthodox clergymen of the Church of England. I lament the frequent violence of orthodox Dissent; but with all its faults it must be admitted that there is a "common ground of nonconformity between it and Unitarianism," on which both may take their stand in the promotion of civil and even of religious liberty.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,  
Exeter, Feb. 14, 1857. HENRY NORRINGTON.

### DR. DAVIDSON AND HIS REVIEWERS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Will you be so good as to publish in the *Nonconformist* the following letter, which was forwarded at the same time to the *Patriot* and *British Banner*, but refused insertion in the latter.

I am yours,  
Independent College. S. DAVIDSON.  
Manchester, Feb. 14, 1857.

SIR,—I perceive, in the number of the *Eclectic Review* for February, an article professing to be a review of the new edition of "Horne's Introduction." As I am not inclined to notice anonymous writers, having ceased to do so for some time past, I shall merely say, that the reviewer has seen fit to explain for me a great many things which he ought to have left alone. At all events, he has entirely misapprehended the meaning of my statements, and evidently does not understand "the theory" (as he calls it) "of the writer on the subject of inspiration." I am not at all surprised at this, as he gives sufficient evidence of the fact, that he had not carefully read my book through, before penning his so-called review. I suppose, however, this is very common. I write merely to caution all readers against believing that the sentiments imputed to me by the anonymous writer are mine. It would have been well to have tried to ascertain what I meant before penning such a sentence as, "Turning from single instances to the sweeping theory—that in history, &c., the inspiration of Scripture does not warrant its accuracy—we note again that it is purely a theory." Yes, and, as the writer understands it, a very bad theory, not to speak of its dangerousness. I am utterly amazed at the extent of misapprehension displayed in the whole piece; but it is folly to expect that reviewers should be anything but what they are. In the meantime, to those who really wish to see the extent of the false utterances that have issued from the press against me since the publication of my volume, and to know my true meaning, which reviewers like the present one would rather misconceive than take the trouble to understand, I beg to intimate that I shall immediately publish a pamphlet defensive and explanatory. Well may the writer in the *Eclectic* feel misgivings, and express them at the end of his so-called review, by saying, "on the supposition that he holds the sweeping theory we have attempted to define," &c., &c. Yes, the attempt at defining it is a gross blunder, and "the sweeping theory," as here held up to view, is a fiction of the writer's own. I think he should really have studied the whole book before attempting to write about it. That course, at least, would have been more respectful, not to say just, to me, as well as more conducive to the best interests of the *Eclectic Review*.

Feb. 4, 1857. SAMUEL DAVIDSON.

### GOSSIP FROM ITALY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

ROME, Jan. 24, 1857.

A blue-book has come into my hands, published by order of the Minister of Commerce and Public Works, containing a statement of results in his department of administration during the year 1855. Perhaps an analysis of some of its contents may be found of interest. A great part of the volume is occupied by a detailed account of the condition of the high roads of the Papal States, geognostic details of the country over which they run, of the materials used in their

construction and repair, and observations suggestive of improvements to be made by avoiding a hill or a torrent, or adopting materials for repairing more easily available. All this, however, being only of local interest, I merely mention it as one instance of the advantages of a centralised administration, which brings the whole experience of each province to assist those in other provinces engaged in a similar department. The length of the principal arteries of communication (what are called the national roads) is 1,236 kilometres (800 miles), and the expense of maintaining them is 133,000 dols. (25,000*l*.), which sum is expended among contractors in the different provinces through which the roads run, without a turnpike in all the country, and forms a part of the national expenditure. The branch roads, which are very numerous, are made and maintained at the expense of the different communes through which they run.

The small mercantile navy of the Roman States received a slight impulse from the demand for transport caused by the late war; but the Minister, in his report, observes, that in consequence of the increased demand for sailors on transport ships, a large number of fishermen became sailors, and 608 tons of fishing-boats were abandoned, broken up, or sold by their owners, as no longer of any use to them. The total of men and officers engaged in seafaring occupations is 9,789, employed in 1,846 vessels, with a total tonnage of 31,167 tons. The communication by sea with neighbouring countries is shown in the returns of Roman shipping entered in foreign ports, amounting to 1,689 vessels, with 102,869 tons burden. It will be observed, from this statement, that the whole tonnage of the Roman States enters foreign ports about three and a half times in the course of a year. The ports are Austrian, Greek, Ionian, and Neapolitan, in the Adriatic, and on the Mediterranean they are the principal ports of the Two Sicilies, France, Tuscany, Sardinia, as well as Malta and the ports of the French possessions in Africa. The number of foreign ships entering the ports of the Roman States, in 1855, was 5,177 for commerce, with a tonnage of the amount of 402,944 tons, besides 1,076 vessels entering on their way to other ports. Included in the figures above given are the steamers which convey passengers to Civita Vecchia. It may be interesting to take their statistics apart, as they will show what chance there may be for the railway which is about being commenced from Rome to Civita Vecchia of paying its expenses. The number of visits paid by steamers to the port of Civita Vecchia was 416, passengers landed 6,767, embarked 5,340; of these, at least 11,500 may be taken as proceeding to or arriving from Rome, giving an average of thirty-two passengers daily between that city and its port, which might possibly be doubled (in the event of railway communication being cheap), from the natives of the country. I have already mentioned, in a former letter, that the people congratulate themselves on being now permitted to form commercial associations, which were prohibited in the last reign. Four such societies are stated to have been put in activity in the year 1855, viz.: one for navigating foreign seas, one maritime assurance company, one for working sulphur mines in the province of Romagna, and one for working hemp by Mr. Dickson's process. During the same year, eleven patents were taken out for original inventions, for the introduction of processes already in use in other countries. At the annual exhibition of industry in the halls of the Capitol, in Rome, three gold medals were distributed for a maximum produce (600 yards) of fine cloth, two gold medals for improvements in raw silk produce, two for works on art and science, and also seven silver medals. Besides these honorary distinctions, the paternal care of the Government has induced them to distribute 14,000 dols. as a bounty for the manufacture of about 90,000 yards of fine cloth, it being their object, for some reason best known to themselves, that all the subjects of his Holiness shall be clad, if possible, entirely in cloth manufactured in the Papal States. The same principle of political economy has induced the Government, for years past, to allow a bounty, varying from ten to twenty dollars the hundred, on the planting of trees in uncultivated ground, and accordingly the Minister announces, that in 1855, 218,217 trees, of various species, were planted, the proprietors of them receiving the bounty allowed by law. The species of trees for which the bounty was paid are—poplar, pine, elm, chestnut, mulberry, olive, almond, orange, and lemon, and includes almost all the common trees for the growth of which the climate and soil are favourable. An attempt was made, in 1853, to get in the statistics of the amount of cereal produce raised and consumed in the Roman States. But in this respect, even the Roman farmers were found to be a race difficult of persuasion; and although a long series of tables is published, the Minister regrets to state that they cannot be relied upon, "owing to the unreasonable mistrust of the proprietors of land," who appear



to have resembled as much, though not so fondly, as our British farmers, any such intrusion on their private affairs.

In the section of Fine Arts and Antiquities, a detailed account is given of restorations of many of the precious remains of the past which are scattered through the Papal States, and of the discovery of others of minor importance. The same section, "after infinite care and much study," has commenced a census of the population, in accordance with the advanced systems of modern statistics, and also a registry of the movement of the population, and is farther occupied in introducing an equalised decimal system of weights and measures for all the provinces, the monetary system being already in decimals, and, perhaps, the simplest, the best adapted to the wants of the country, and therefore the most perfect in the world. Rome is so famous as a city of the arts, that it may be worth the while to record the estimated value of the works of art exported in 1855: it was twenty-five thousand pounds for paintings, and twenty-eight thousand for sculptures, with a total advance of eight thousand pounds value on the preceding year.

As an appendix to the report, is given an article of great interest to those interested in science, by the well-known Padre Secchi, the Director of the Roman Observatory. This eminent observer has availed himself of the establishment of telegraphic communication in the Roman States to establish, under authority of the Government, a chain of meteorological observations between Rome, Bologna, Ancona, and Ferrara; the results of the observations at each point being communicated daily by telegraph. In the course of the preamble to his article, the Padre Secchi points out the advantage likely to arise from telegraphic communication, combined with meteorologic observation, as a warning to provide against threatening atmospheric phenomena, of which the course may be with probability foreseen, and also the peculiar opportunities offered, by the position and climate of Italy, for a combined series of simultaneous atmospheric observations over a large extent of country. He also states that great attention is at present paid to meteorology in Italy, there being no less than twenty-one well-mounted public observatories scattered over the various States of the peninsula, and he anticipates great advantage to the science from a series of simultaneous observations communicated telegraphically, if the Governments of the other States shall be induced to place the telegraph at the disposal of the various observers. I am afraid that my letter already contains too many figures for the majority of your readers. I shall, therefore, only add, that in the first nine months of the establishment of the line from Rome to the Modenese frontier, the private dispatches averaged twelve hundred per month, and were found to produce a profit to the Government, who are proprietors of the line, of one thousand pounds.

The accounts of the condition of Naples are alike uncertain and deplorable. The American representative there gave notice to travellers of his nation in Rome, that he considered the state of the city so unsafe that he should advise the deferring a visit to it. Yet some travellers leave for there daily. It will, probably, rather amuse than anger the English public to know that here, as well as in Naples, the frequent explosions, attempts on the King's life, as well as the outbreak in Sicily, are attributed by respectable people to the gold of the English Government; yet such an expression is frequently expressed both here and in Naples.

## Parliamentary Proceedings.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

#### PETITIONS PRESENTED.

China and Persia, for preventing further acts of aggression, 6.  
Emigration, for promoting, 1.  
Income-tax, for repeal or reduction, 202.  
Opium Trade, for prohibition, 4.  
Law of Settlement, for amendment, 5.  
Superannuation Act, for amendment, 47.  
Church-rates, for abolition, 2.  
Drunkennes, for suppression, 2.  
Licensing System, for alteration, 1.  
Married Women, for amendment of property law, 1.  
Law of Libel, for amendment, 1.  
Paper Duty, for repeal, 12.  
Public Health Act, for amendment, 1.  
Turnpike Tolls, for abolition, 1.  
Adulteration of Food, for prevention, 1.  
Ballot, for adoption, 1.  
Intoxicating Liquors, for restricting sale, 1.  
Ministers' Money (Ireland), for abolition, 1.  
Passing Tolls Bill, for alteration, 4.  
Church-rate Abolition Bill, against, 1.  
Maynooth College Act, for repeal, 35.  
Oath of Abjuration, for repeal, 1.

#### BILLS PRESENTED AND READ A FIRST TIME.

Chatham Lands, &c., Bill.  
Royal Marine Forces Bill.  
Industrial Schools Bill.  
Ecclesiastical Corporation Bill.  
Sale of Beer, &c., Bill.  
Chief Constables Bill.  
Church-rates Abolition Bill.  
Public Health Supplemental Bill (1857).  
Petty Sessions (Ireland) Bill.  
Turnpike Trusts Abolition (Ireland) Bill.

#### BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Judgments Execution, &c., Bill.  
Commons Inclosure Bill.  
Royal Marine Forces Bill.  
Ionian Subjects Commission Bill.  
Passing Tolls Bill.  
Chief Constables Bill.  
Lunatic Asylums (Ireland) Bill.

#### CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Royal Marine Forces Bill.

#### READ A THIRD TIME.

Royal Marine Forces Bill.

### DEBATES.

#### JUDGMENTS EXECUTION, ETC., BILL.

The second reading of this bill was moved by Mr. CRAWFORD in the Commons on Wednesday. Colonel FRENCH opposed the bill, especially its application to Ireland, and moved to defer the second reading for six months. This amendment was seconded by Mr. McMAHON. Mr. BLAND, Mr. GEORGE, and Mr. H. HUGHES strongly objected to the bill, which was supported by Mr. HADFIELD. Mr. FITZGERALD defended the bill. It had gone through a select committee, where all its objectionable provisions had been expunged, and its principles had been four times sanctioned by the House. Mr. NAPIER admitted that there had been some misconception and exaggeration respecting the measure, but it was by no means a perfect one, and he pointed out two main objections. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, in supporting the bill, said he did not believe that any Irish member would found his opposition to the bill upon the ground that it would give English creditors greater facilities for compelling a large class of Irish debtors to pay their debts. The second reading was carried by 56 against 46.

#### SIR ROBERT PEEL'S LECTURE AT SALTLEY.

In the Commons, on Thursday, Mr. STAFFORD having inquired of Sir R. Peel whether the report of a speech which he was alleged to have delivered at Saltley on the 7th of January was accurate.

Sir R. PEEL declared himself quite prepared to take the responsibility for every statement contained in that address. Some of his expressions, however, had been misunderstood, and he begged to apologise to sundry individuals whose names were introduced in that speech (Count Morny, the Grand-Duke Constantine, and the Prince de Ligne), for any mortification which they might have experienced on that account.

All I can say is, that if, in the opinion of the honourable gentlemen who may have considered this question,—if in the attempt, the innocent attempt, I made to paint a few light and airy sketches of character—(laughter)—to, as Pope said, "hold the mirror up to nature"—(continued laughter)—to "catch the manners living as they rise"—(much laughter)—if I have erred in the good opinion of those whose good opinion I honour and value, and whose judgment has weight, I beg to say, on this public occasion, as an earnest of the sincerity of my feelings, that, though I do not feel that I did err, still, if I did err in their opinion, I now offer the most ample expression of regret—(cheers)—and that is the most fitting *amende honorable* that I can offer. (Cheering from all sides of the House.)

#### THE "SECRET TREATY."

Lord PALMERSTON, referring to the explanation which had taken place on Tuesday night, regarding the convention of 1854, said he wished to set himself right with Mr. Disraeli upon that subject. He had then said that the convention was never signed; but upon further inquiry he found that, in point of fact, it had been signed, but, it being more of a military than of a political character, the object being to regulate the relations of the French and Austrian troops in Italy, in the contingency of Austria declaring war against Russia, and Austria never having declared war, the convention, though signed, became a dead letter.

Mr. DISRAELI recapitulated what, he alleged, he had stated, and which, he observed, had been pronounced a romance, and he now pointed out, first, that Lord Palmerston had been compelled to admit, on Tuesday night, that there was a written document in existence; and next, that this document, which he called a convention and said had never been signed, was signed. Mr. Disraeli then repeated his statement—

I state again, that there is a treaty—a secret treaty—between France and Austria, the object of which is to guarantee the security of the Italian possessions of Austria; that it was executed on the day I mentioned; that it has been extensively acted upon; that, to the best of my belief, it contains, on its surface, no limitation of the period of its operation; and that the character given of it by the noble lord the other night is entirely incorrect. (Loud cheers.)

Lord PALMERSTON characterised this speech as an attempt of Mr. Disraeli to "cover his ignominious retreat from his first position." (Ironical cheers met by counter-cheers.) His original statement was, that a guarantee-treaty is in existence; that it had been quoted by Austria in the Neapolitan dispute; that it had been executed "not only with the knowledge but at the instigation of her Majesty's Government." (Cheers and counter-cheers.)

Mr. DISRAELI: "At the 'instance'!"

Lord PALMERSTON: "No, 'instigation'! But the right honourable gentleman cannot rest his statement upon syllables. However, I heard the word and I recollect it: I am sure he made use of the word 'instigation'."

Mr. DISRAELI: "'Instance' or 'advice'!"

Lord PALMERSTON: "Well, advice! (Cheers from the Opposition.) Oh! but I heard the word 'instigation' distinctly." (Renewed cheers and counter-cheers.)

Mr. DISRAELI: "You say it is 'instigation'."

Lord PALMERSTON said in continuation, what this meant was, that the treaty originated in advice and

counsel given by England to France and Austria. Now he denied the whole of that statement; and, notwithstanding "the vapouring manner" in which Mr. Disraeli had followed up the matter, would say he had been imposed upon. (Cries of "Oh!") Lord Palmerston repeated, that Mr. Disraeli had been "grossly imposed upon;" that his own statement was perfectly true, and that Mr. Disraeli was "entirely misinformed as to the facts of the case." (Loud cheering and counter-cheering.)

#### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC JUSTICE.

Mr. NAPIER made his motion for the appointment of a Minister of Justice in the following terms—

That an humble address be presented to Her Majesty, praying that she will be graciously pleased to take into consideration, as an urgent measure of administrative reform, the formation of a separate and responsible Department for the affairs of Public Justice.

Mr. Napier described the existing evils arising from ill-drawn and redundant legislation; proposed as a remedy the appointment of a Minister of Justice. He showed how essential law reforms have become; how opportune is the present time; how absorbed the law-officers of the Crown are in their set duties; how there is no authority to receive suggestions from those who experience practical difficulties in the application of the law, or to carry out those suggestions in the preparation of bills; and he found the obvious remedy for this defect in the establishment of a separate department, like those for War, Trade, Health, and Education.

Mr. COLLIER seconded and enforced the motion.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL did not oppose the motion. The objects of the resolution, if its terms were slightly altered, might be carried out, by means of existing machinery, without "changing the constitution." If the Lord Chancellor were armed with a sufficient staff he could accomplish all that is required.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL remarked on this speech, that while the larger part was a powerful argument in favour of Mr. Napier's proposal, and while this was said to be the Attorney-General's own view, and not the view of the Government, the smaller part was "eminently unsatisfactory," as it proposed to alter Mr. Napier's scheme, and give us, instead of "a separate and responsible department," the Lord Chancellor and certain officers. Against this latter proposal Lord John argued forcibly; and he suggested the Home Secretary as a proper head of a department of justice. Without such a head, there cannot be either unity in law-reform or that weight of authority which would propel measures through Parliament.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seeing that it was thought the omission of the words "as an urgent measure of administrative reform" would impair the efficiency of the resolution, said that the Government had not the least objection to retain them.

Mr. WIGRAM, Mr. EWART, Sir ERSKINE PERRY, Mr. MONTAGUE CHAMBERS, and Mr. WARREN, supported the motion. Mr. MALINS only put in a word for the placing of the proposed duties in the hands of the Lord Chancellor.

Lord PALMERSTON said, that in agreeing to Mr. Napier's proposition, the Government did so for the purpose of sincerely giving effect to the principle it embodies. "That principle I take to be, that some real effort should be made to organise departmental arrangements, for promoting reforms and improvements of the law." The subject is surrounded by great difficulties, but he was not without hope that, after mature consideration, the difficulties will be overcome.

Motion agreed to, *nem. con.*

#### CHURCH-RATES.

Sir W. CLAY moved for leave to bring in a bill for the abolition of Church-rates, the bill to be limited to the total abolition of such rates, and a provision saving existing legal obligations.

Mr. SPOONER inquired whether the Government meant to give their support to a measure for the total abolition of Church-rates.

Mr. LABOUCHERE replied that Sir George Grey had already stated that the Government had no intention to introduce any measure upon the subject, and when the bill, for the introduction of which leave was now asked stood for a second reading, he had no doubt his noble friend (Lord Palmerston) or the Home Secretary would state the views entertained by the Government.

Sir W. CLAY afterwards brought up his bill, which was read a first time and ordered to be printed. The second reading was fixed for the 25th of March.

#### PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

In the House of Lords, on Friday, Lord BROUGHAM, in an impressive speech, called attention to the state of the law with regard to the property of married women, and moved resolutions, affirming that the law urgently requires amendment; that a wife ought to have entire control over the whole of her property, or, if it should be found impracticable, then that the law should make a settlement for her, as it makes a will for a person who dies intestate. He should introduce a bill, carefully prepared by a learned and worthy colleague of his in the Law Amendment Society, carrying into effect the first and most effectual remedy. In the course of his speech, Lord Brougham expressed his great, his hardly to be expressed gratification, that the House of Commons had unanimously agreed to a resolution in favour of establishing a Department of Public Justice. He might withdraw from the position which, according to a jocular remark of a noble and learned friend, he (Lord Brougham) had so long filled as "Chargé d'Affaires" of that department.

Lord CAMPBELL suggested that the noble and learned lord might be the First Minister of Justice.

Lord BROUGHAM said the duties of such an officer would be so onerous, so important, that, even were he not determined never to undertake any office at this mature age, he would not venture to assume the re-



responsibilities of such a department. Happily, all difficulty would give way to the acknowledged importance of the subject, and he had little doubt that they would soon see the creation of that department. However, until the arrival of a Minister of Justice, his own duties as *Chargé d'Affaires* of that department could not be said to be entirely abolished.

Earl GRANVILLE, adverting to Lord Brougham's statement, that he was just going abroad for some weeks, deeply regretted the want of his assistance in the consideration of those most important law-reforms to which their attention would be drawn. His hope was that some satisfactory conclusion regarding the question before them would be arrived at during the present session, and before the noble and learned lord returned. (Hear, hear.)

Lord CAMPBELL said that the law of this country as regarded married women was barbarous, and he hoped a remedy would soon be provided. He was above all desirous to see a better mode of enabling women to separate from their husbands who deserted them or used them cruelly.

The Lord Chancellor was about to put the resolutions, when Lord CAMPBELL moved the adjournment of the debate to this day six weeks. After a few words in reply from Lord BROUGHAM, the motion of Lord Campbell was agreed to.

#### THE PERSIAN WAR.

In the House of Commons, on Friday, on the motion for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. LAYARD raised a small debate on the conduct of the Government in reference to the Persian war. He had given notice of motion; and although assured that negotiations were going on, he persisted, because "it is unprecedented that a war should be entered into while Parliament is sitting, and negotiations opened for peace when Parliament is again setting, without Parliament being called upon to pronounce any opinion on the subject." Would Lord Palmerston say, yes or no, whether discussion would endanger the prospect of peace?

Lord PALMERSTON said, negotiations had been opened in a promising manner; and any debate, founded on imperfect information, on points under negotiation, must be injurious.

Mr. BAILLIE asked whether Lord Palmerston would lay on the table the ultimatum sent to the Persian Government previous to the war? Lord PALMERSTON said he could not, as the result might be injurious, if not fatal, to the negotiations. Mr. ROEBUCK said "the boasted supervision of the House is a farce;" the House dares not say anything, because at one moment the Minister says it is too early to inquire, at another too late. Lord JOHN RUSSELL thought the circumstances are peculiar and unusual, and he could well imagine the Government justified in withholding the papers. Mr. GLADSTONE pointed out that the House was also in a peculiar position—the Government had declared war on their own responsibility, without the sanction of Parliament. But he confessed that he must see the papers before expressing an opinion. Mr. DISRAELI said he was rather jealous of negotiations going on after the commencement of war, it might be so contrived, that by some agent of the respective Governments, what might be called negotiations might be perpetually going on during the whole war, and the Governments might avail themselves of that plea to decline giving information.

#### THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

There was a large attendance of members on Friday, when the House of Commons went into Committee of Supply.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER then proceeded to make his financial statement, premising that that was the first occasion on which it was competent to him to make it. He began by calling attention to the revenue and expenditure of the current financial year, 1856-57. The revenue of the current year, ending on the 5th April, he had taken at 71,740,000*l.*; the actual amount will probably be 71,885,000*l.* The Customs have produced 23,600,000*l.*, instead of 23,850,000*l.*, his estimate; and this arose from the short stock of sugar and the check to the consumption of tea. The expenditure was estimated at 82,113,000*l.*, leaving a deficiency of 10,373,000*l.*, including a margin of 2,000,000*l.* To meet this deficiency he borrowed 7,499,000*l.* Power was taken to borrow 4,000,000*l.* on Exchequer-bills; but this had been used only to the extent of 1,000,000*l.* The total receipts will be 79,384,000*l.*; the total expenditure probably 78,000,000*l.*, leaving a balance of 1,384,000*l.* In answer to Mr. Disraeli's accusation that there was extraordinary war taxation in time of peace, he pointed out that the year was not a year of ordinary peace expenditure. There had been lent 1,000,000*l.* to Sardinia; 91,000*l.* paid on account of hereditary pensions under an act of last session; there will be a loss of upwards of 2,000,000*l.* on the article of malt by the reduction of duty and drawbacks: it is therefore incorrect to say that no reduction has taken place in war taxation. In order to show that the pressure of taxation has not diminished the resources of the country, he cited the figures showing the flourishing state of the export and import trade, the large employment of shipping, and the diminution in the number of emigrants. Deducting the three years of peace expenditure just before the war—152,323,000*l.*, from the three years of war expenditure—228,721,000*l.*, he said the remainder, 76,398,000*l.* affords a pretty close approximation to the close of the war. Of this sum, he set down 40,362,000*l.* as the war taxation. The total expenditure for the year 1857-58, he estimated at 63,224,000*l.*: that is interest on Funded and Unfunded Debt, 28,550,000*l.*; permanent charge on the Consolidated Fund, 1,707,000*l.*; Army, 11,625,000*l.*; Navy, 8,109,000*l.*; Packet Service, 965,000*l.*; Civil Services, 7,250,000*l.*; Collection of Revenue, 4,215,000*l.*; Superannuation of Revenue department, 475,000*l.*; Persian War, 265,000*l.* Beyond this, there are debts

to be provided for, amounting in all to 2,000,000*l.*; which makes a total estimated outlay of 65,474,000*l.* Sir George went into a detailed explanation of these items, to show that they are not excessive even as compared with the estimates of peace years; and in accounting for the increase, he pointed out a variety of causes—such as the Packet service, the transfer of the Coast Guard from the Customs to the Admiralty, the increased charges arising from the use of steam in the Navy. Before he came to the taxation for the ensuing financial year, he made some remarks on the compact said to have been entered into in 1853 between Parliament and the country with regard to the continuance of the financial arrangements of that year. Now, to admit the doctrine of compact, it should be shown that the state of things on which the compact was made remains unchanged. But the plan of 1853 was formed on the assumption of peace. That did not turn out to be correct—war, a disturbing cause of the first magnitude, succeeded, and not only increased the annual charge for the Debt, but left war-loan sinking-funds to provide for, and 2,000,000*l.* of Exchequer Bonds, payable this year. And on the other side of the account, we have had a loss of 150,000*l.* by the alteration of Stamp-duty on bills of exchange in 1853, a decrease of 290,000*l.* in Assessed Taxes, 260,000*l.* by the abolition of the Newspaper Stamp-duty, and 60,000*l.* on the carriage-duty; total remission of taxation since 1853, 760,000*l.* After this, the House growing impatient, Sir George made a statement to show that the direct is only one-half of the amount of the indirect taxation of the country; and then, touching on the Paper and Wine and Spirit duties, and the duty on Fire-insurances, he intimated that no change will be made in them at present. At length he came to the income-tax. (Hear, hear.) As the law now stands, the Exchequer is entitled to receive 16*d.* for the ensuing year, and 5*d.* for the two following years; in all 26*d.*, or 26,000,000*l.*

The proposal which I have to make to the committee, looking to the increased charges upon the revenue for some years to come owing to the debts contracted during the war, and to the remission of taxation in the same period, is to fix the Income-tax as it was originally fixed by Sir Robert Peel, and at two subsequent periods, taking it for the next three years at 7*d.* in the pound. (This announcement was received with some cheering, which was speedily converted into roars of laughter, when a large number of honourable members on both sides rose from their seats and left the House. The noise occasioned by their withdrawal having subsided, the right honourable gentleman who had joined in the merriment, proceeded with his statement.) I am sorry, Sir, to have to continue my explanation to an audience so greatly reduced in numbers. (A laugh.)

I propose to reduce the rate of income-tax levied upon incomes between 100*l.* and 150*l.* a-year to the rate adopted in the original measure of my right honourable friend—namely, 5*d.* in the pound, which will amount to 2*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* per cent. I believe the high war Income-tax has pressed with great severity upon the class of small incomes.

The effect would be, that the Exchequer would receive twenty-one instead of twenty-six millions. With regard to tea and sugar, he proposes a gradual diminution of the duties on tea from 1*s.* 9*d.* to 1*s.* 7*d.* next year, 1*s.* 3*d.* in 1859, and 1*s.* in 1860; on refined sugar, from 20*s.* to 18*s.* 4*d.* in 1858, 16*s.* 8*d.* in 1859, and 13*s.* 4*d.* in 1860; brown sugar, from 13*s.* 9*d.* to 12*s.* 8*d.* in 1858, 11*s.* 8*d.* in 1859, and 10*s.* 7*d.* in 1860. The total revenue for the ensuing year he estimated at 66,365,000*l.*, which would leave a surplus over the expenditure of 891,000*l.*, viz:—

Customs	...	...	£22,850,000
Excise	...	...	17,000,000
Stamps	...	...	7,450,000
Land and Assessed Taxes	...	...	3,150,000
Income-tax	...	...	11,450,000
Post-office	...	...	3,000,000
Crown Lands	...	...	265,000
Miscellaneous	...	...	1,200,000

The total amount of the taxes that would be reduced this year was 11,971,000*l.* In conclusion, he observed, that if the liabilities of the next three years were discharged, and the accruing liabilities were met, the entire debt of 40,000,000*l.* owing to the war would be extinguished in twenty years. He moved a resolution for a vote of 2,000,000*l.* to pay off and discharge Exchequer Bonds issued in 1854, and payable on the 8th of May, 1857.

On a vote of 2,000,000*l.* for Exchequer Bonds being proposed, there arose a rambling discussion in a thin House; during which Mr. GLADSTONE seemed inclined to question the accuracy of the Chancellor's statements with regard to his losses on malt, assessed taxes, and bills of exchange. A great many members touched on isolated points; and ultimately the Chairman reported progress.

#### THE LAW OF LIBEL.

In the House of Lords, on Monday, Lord BROUGHAM presented a petition from the Messrs. Baines, the proprietors of the *Leeds Mercury*, setting forth the alarm which had been caused to them by the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench in *Davison v. Duncan*, namely, that there is no protection for the publisher either in a newspaper or any separate work of the speeches made at a public meeting, however regularly the assembly may have been constituted; but that the rule which applies to the publication of proceedings in a court of justice does not apply to proceedings at public meetings. The petitioners prayed for the extension of the privilege enjoyed by the publishers of proceedings in courts of justice to the publishers of proceedings at public meetings.

Lord CAMPBELL, in presenting a petition on the subject of the law of libel, drew attention to a question which had arisen in a late case, namely, whether the proceedings of public meetings might be published without danger of an action, no matter how much they might injure character. He trusted the question

would be settled as soon as possible, so that the judges might be relieved from the embarrassment to which they were now subjected. It was absurd that the judges sitting in the court should legislate as well as administer the law.

#### MR. SHEEPSHANKS' COLLECTION.

Lord MONTEAGLE having moved for some correspondence relating to the proposed gift by Mr. Sheepshanks of his collection of paintings and "works of art to the nation,

Lord STANLEY of Alderley explained the conditions which Mr. Sheepshanks had attached—but which it did not appear that the government had as yet accepted, to his magnificent present. He conditioned that the collection should be located in some convenient building in connexion with the schools of art lately established at Kensington Gore, and placed under the sole responsibility of the minister entrusted with the department of public education. The collection was to be thrown open freely for public instruction and enjoyment on all fitting seasons, and it was the wish of the donor, though not made an express condition, that the gallery should be opened on Sunday evenings.

#### EXPULSION OF MR. JAMES SADLEIR.

In the House of Commons, on Monday, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND, in pursuance of notice previously given, moved a resolution to the effect that Mr. James Sadleir having been charged with divers frauds, and having failed to obey an order of the house commanding him to attend in his place on the 24th of July last, and being a fugitive from justice, should be expelled from the house. In support of this resolution Mr. Fitzgerald briefly recapitulated the facts of the case connected with the Tipperary Bank as they had transpired in evidence before judicial tribunals, and related to the complicity of Mr. James Sadleir with fraudulent practices that had taken place. He proceeded to describe the means taken to apprehend that member, which, he said, had been incessant but unsuccessful, and submitted that, according to recognised precedent, the time had arrived when the House would be justified in voting his expulsion.

The motion was seconded by Mr. BUTT.

Sir F. THESSIGER approved of the resolution, but contended that no reason could be urged why this measure of purgation had not been accomplished in accordance with the motion brought forward by Mr. Roebuck towards the close of last session. Mr. ROEBUCK, Mr. WHITESIDE, Sir G. GREY, and other members having briefly spoken, the motion was agreed to.

#### THE DEBATE ON THE BUDGET.

On the motion for going into committee of supply, The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER adverted to the proposed discussion on the general financial policy of the Government, and showed reasons why that debate should be postponed until the next motion for a committee of ways and means.

Mr. DISRAELI complained of the inconvenience arising from this delay of a discussion for which the House was so anxious, but consented to it, nevertheless, and announced the terms of an amendment on which he intended to challenge a vote. It is as follows:—

That, in the opinion of this House, it would be expedient, before sanctioning the financial arrangements for the ensuing year, to adjust the estimated income and expenditure in the manner which shall appear best calculated to secure the country against the risk of a deficiency in the years 1858-9 and 1859-60, and to provide such a balance of revenue and charge respectively in the year 1860 as may place it in the power of Parliament at that period, without embarrassment to the revenue, altogether to remit the Income-tax.

Mr. GLADSTONE inquired whether the Government intended to proceed with the naval estimates that evening. He objected to vote money before an opportunity had been afforded to discuss the ministerial budget in its entirety.

It is perfectly plain—beyond the possibility of dispute—that if we proceed to take a vote on the navy estimates we shall lose the opportunity of an unprejudiced discussion of the whole scheme. (Hear, hear.) I do not wish to detain the House with arguments on a matter so plain that it does not require them; but I, for one, not knowing what may be the opinion of other honourable members, cannot consent to your leaving the chair for the purpose of going into Committee of Supply unless it is understood that the resolution of the Chancellor of the Exchequer is the only resolution which is to be moved to-night. (Cheers.)

Lord JOHN RUSSELL expressed his concurrence in this objection—

To go into committee on the Navy Estimates is very unreasonable—(cheers)—and immediately the committee came to that point I shall feel compelled to take such a course as will induce the House to resume, or at least not to come to a vote on that subject. (Loud cheers.)

Lord PALMERSTON:

To save the House trouble we will adopt the course which the House seems to prefer. We will not go into the navy estimates to-night. (Laughter.)

The motion was agreed to, and amid some confusion from the noise of members leaving and conversing, the House went into Committee of Supply.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in moving a vote of 2,000,000*l.* to pay off Exchequer-bonds, gave certain explanations of his financial statement which had been called for on Friday night, and read a statement of the details of the estimated revenue and expenditure for the years 1858-59 and 1859-60, with the view of showing that the apprehensions of Mr. Disraeli of a deficiency were groundless.

If the committee would wish to hear the estimate of each item for those two years I will read it to them. (Hear, hear.)

#### ESTIMATED REVENUE IN 1858-9 AND 1859-60.

	1858-9.	1859-60.
Customs	22,350,000	22,000,000
Excise	17,450,000	17,700,000
Stamps	7,550,000	7,700,000



Land and assessed taxes..	3,150,000	3,150,000
Income-tax .....	7,150,000	7,150,000
Post-office .....	3,000,000	3,000,000
Crown lands .....	265,000	265,000
Miscellaneous .....	1,385,000	1,300,000
	62,300,000	62,265,000
Liabilities.....	3,500,000	3,500,000
Net revenue after paying off liabilities.....	58,800,000	58,765,000

Well, now the gross expenditure for 1853-4 was 55,840,000*l.*, and therefore, according to my estimate of revenue and expenditure for these two years, after discharging all liabilities, exclusive of the Exchequer-bonds, there will be an excess beyond the expenditure of the last year before the war of about 3,000,000*l.* The whole of this 3,000,000*l.* will be applicable to the increased charge of the army, the navy, and the civil service, with the single deduction of the increased interest upon the debt, which has been created during the war. The House will see that this estimate of revenue is not a sanguine estimate. I have not calculated upon any increase in the indirect taxes, although when Parliament remits so large a sum as 9,000,000*l.* of direct taxation we may, under ordinary circumstances, reasonably expect a great increase in the produce of the indirect taxation. (Hear, hear.) Unless, therefore, it can be shown that there is some error in this estimate, which I believe cannot be pointed out, I have proved that I have provided a sufficient revenue for the years 1858-9 and 1859-60.

Mr. GLADSTONE, though unable to accept this cheering prospect for the future, would postpone the discussion of that most important and vital portion of the question—the prospect of the balance of revenue and expenditure in the years following 1857-8.

After a few words from Sir F. Baring, the resolution was agreed to.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER gave notice that he would, on Friday, in a Committee of Ways and Means, propose his resolutions on the income-tax and the duties on tea and sugar.

Mr. DISRAELI said he should then move his resolution by way of amendment.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. L. DAVIES has obtained leave to bring in a bill to prevent the gross inequalities in the weights and measures of the United Kingdom.

Mr. W. EWART, on the 26th inst., is to move for leave to introduce a bill to assimilate the law effecting capital punishments in Scotland with the law in England.

In reply to Sir H. Willoughby, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he had a bill prepared on the subject of savings-banks, and would ask leave to introduce it on an early day.

Mr. COBDEN gave notice on Thursday that on that day fortnight he should make the following motion: "That this House has heard with concern of the recent conflicts between the British and Chinese authorities in Canton River; and, without expressing an opinion as to the extent to which the Government of China may have afforded grounds of complaint by the non-fulfilment of the provisions of the treaty of 1843, yet feels that the papers laid on the table fail to make out a case." He should conclude by moving the appointment of a select committee.

The Attorney-General is on Friday, the 20th February, to move for leave to bring in a bill to render frauds by trustees criminally punishable.

Ministers do not propose to alter the Charitable Trusts Act this session, but will introduce a bill for giving sanction to various schemes of the Charity Commissioners.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, the Marquis of SALISBURY moved for a select committee to consider the question of Secondary Punishments. Earl GRANVILLE resisted the motion, on the ground that no further inquiry is needed. In the course of a conversational debate that followed, Sir George Grey's Bill was much canvassed; but the sense of the House was clearly against further inquiry, and the motion was negatived without a division.

It has been announced in the House of Lords, that Government does not intend to bring in, this session, any bill for the collection of agricultural statistics in England.

In the House of Lords, on Monday, the Earl of ALBEMARLE, in answer to an appeal from Lord Clarendon, consented to postpone for a few days his motion on the Persian war. The latter said he had received a communication that morning from Paris, which induced him to think that there are now better reasons to hope than before that matters will be brought to a satisfactory arrangement.

The Select Committee on the Bank Acts was finally nominated on Monday, as follows: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Disraeli, Sir James Graham, Mr. Spooner, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. G. A. Hamilton, Mr. Cardwell, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Hildyard, Mr. Glyn, Mr. Beckett, Mr. Hankey, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Urquhart, Mr. J. L. Ricardo, Sir C. Wood, Mr. Cayley, Sir F. Baring, Mr. M. T. Smith, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Fergus, Mr. Weguelin, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Vance, and Mr. Laing. The committee is to be a "committee of secrecy," in accordance with precedent; that is, members of the House but not of the committee will be excluded—and of course the public.

The following are the members of the Committee on the Hudson's Bay Company's Charter and Territories: Mr. Labouchere, Sir John Pakington, Lord John Russell, Mr. Gladstone, Lord Stanley, Mr. Roebuck, Mr. Edward Ellice, Mr. Adderley, Mr. Lowe, Viscount Sandon, Mr. Grogan, Mr. Kinnaird, Mr. Gregson, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Charles Fitzwilliam, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Gurney, Mr. Percy Herbert, and Mr. Bell.

In reply to Mr. Thos. Duncombe, Mr. COWPER said it was his intention to lay on the table a bill on the subject of vaccination somewhat similar to that

introduced by him last year, and to move to refer it to a select committee, on the understanding that it should have power to inquire into the working and results of the act at present in force.

The Earl of Shaftesbury has given notice that on Monday, the 2nd March, he will bring under the consideration of the House the traffic in opium between the East Indies and China.

On Monday, Sir J. Pakington postponed his motion on the subject of education till Wednesday.

#### Postscript.

Wednesday Feb. 18.

#### TUESDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords, yesterday, the Lord CHANCELLOR entered into some explanations touching the course which he proposed to adopt with the view of facilitating the consolidation of the statute law. The subject was pursued by Lord BROUGHAM, who described and defended the proceedings of the statute law commissioners.

Their lordships transacted some further business, and adjourned at twenty minutes past six o'clock.

In the House of Commons, a new writ was moved for East Sussex in the room of Mr. Frewen.

Mr. MUNTZ postponed his resolution on the subject of the Income-tax till that day fortnight.

Mr. SCOBELL also postponed his motion on the subject of Land-tax to the same day.

Sir C. WOOD, in reply to Mr. Roebuck, denied that the Resolute, the ship presented to the nation by the United States, had been pulled to pieces.

Replying to Mr. J. B. Cochrane, Lord PALMERSTON said that the correspondence already laid on the table with reference to the Neapolitan question, comprised all the despatches which bore any reference to the chief subject of controversy.

In answer to questions from Lord Goderich and Sir J. Pakington, the PREMIER denied the truth of the report that Canton had been bombarded. The origin of that report was the circumstance that the Chinese set fire to some of the Hong's, and a number congregated around them, and it being desirable to disperse the multitude to prevent aggression, some shells were thrown amongst them to drive them away. No bombardment of the town had taken place. In reply to Mr. Walpole, Mr. LABOUCHERE said there would be no objection to produce copies of the registers of lorches under the colonial office.

Leave was given to Mr. McMahon to bring in a bill for assimilating the law as to the sea coast fisheries of Ireland with that of England.

Captain SCOBELL moved for a select committee to inquire into the naval administration, especially with regard to the list of officers, the patronage, the promotions, the retirements, and the efficiency of the service in all its grades. The gallant member supported his motion by the citation of numerous instances of injustice and favouritism in the promotion of officers to the higher ranks of naval service, and insisted that the evils of the present system had attained a magnitude which required a searching investigation, with the view to the inauguration of a sounder principle.

Sir C. WOOD questioned the correctness of the inferences drawn by Captain Scobell. The performances of the navy during the late war sufficiently attested the ability of the officers and the general efficiency of the system. He repudiated the charge of favouritism altogether, declaring that promotions in the navy were accorded solely upon considerations of desert, uninfluenced by any surreptitious bias, whether derived from a parliamentary, a family, or a political origin. Mr. LINDSAY believed that the state of the naval administration demanded inquiry. Admiral WALCOTT also supported the motion. After a brief reply from Captain SCOBELL, the House divided. For the resolution, 76; against, 97—21.

Lord PALMERSTON moved for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the operation of the act passed in 1854 for the suppression of bribery, treating, and undue influence at elections. Mr. WILLIAMS and Mr. H. BERKELEY having spoken a few words, the motion was agreed to.

Mr. BOUVIERIE obtained leave to bring in a bill providing for the relief of the poor in extra-parochial places.

The Royal Marine Forces Bill was read a third time and passed.

The House adjourned at half-past seven o'clock.

#### WEDNESDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

##### PETITIONS.

Several petitions against the Income-tax were presented, and Mr. HORSFALL presented a petition from Liverpool against the proposition in reference to the tea duties.

##### JUDGMENTS, EXECUTION, &c., BILL.

On the order for going into committee on this bill, Mr. HUGHES moved as an amendment, "That this House will upon this day six months resolve itself into the said committee;" which Colonel FRENCH seconded. Mr. HADFIELD supported the bill, on the ground that the same law should be applied to the whole of the United Kingdom.

Mr. WHITESIDE said the question to be decided was, whether the proposed remedy would not produce more mischief than the small evil which now existed.

Mr. BLAND thought the bill would be a dangerous interference with the existing law. It was not a bill for assimilating the laws, but for altering the laws of the three countries.

Colonel DUNNE and Mr. McCANN also urged the opposition of the mercantile classes to the bill.

Mr. WARREN was of opinion that if the bill passed

into law it would have a salutary effect over the whole kingdom.

Mr. NAPIER trusted that the Government would take the matter in hand.

Mr. McMAHON believed it would act injuriously to the interests of English merchants.

Mr. ROEBUCK pointed out several inconsistencies in the bill, and held that the Legislature ought not to indulge in any peddling measures.

The LORD ADVOCATE supported, and Mr. SPOONER opposed it.

Mr. G. BUTT said its simple object was to give efficacy to the judgments of England, Ireland, and Scotland respectively upon a proper application being made.

The amendment was lost by 80 to 127, and the House then went into committee on the bill.

The House went into committee on the Chief Constables Bill, and the Public Health Supplemental Bill, was read a second time.

A new writ was ordered for Tipperary County in the room of Mr. James Sadleir, expelled.

#### EDUCATION (CITIES AND TOWNS).

Sir J. PAKINGTON moved for leave to bring in a "bill for the promotion of elementary education in cities and corporate towns." He desired to submit a measure which should be permissive, not compulsory—local, not general. (Hear, hear.) He agreed that a general compulsory scheme of education would be far more satisfactory; but thought he had taken a more cautious, and to the House, a more respectful part, in suggesting that the attempted legislation upon this subject should be permissive rather than compulsory. (Hear, hear.) This bill would leave it to those places to be affected by it to try the proposed experiment, so interesting to the country at large. (Hear.) The principles he desired to establish were three—1st. Religious freedom and toleration. 2. That there shall be a local contribution to the support of an object which is interesting to every home in England. 3. That following out the principles of all our most important institutions, there shall be local management and control of funds so raised for that purpose. Mr. Gibson had last session said that there were three great parties; and until two of those could agree, there would be no chance for any general system of education. Those three parties were—first, those who hold that religious teaching should be combined with general instruction; second, the voluntary party; third, the secular party. He was happy to be able to announce that an understanding had been come to between the first and the third of those parties—both to some extent giving way, but neither with a sacrifice of any great principle. The bill proposed that the rate to be levied should be a rate in aid of the existing system, that the pence hitherto drawn from the children's pockets should be still contributed; that grants from the committee of Privy Council should not be interfered with; but that any deficiencies from those grants should be made from the rate in aid.

Mr. COWPER doubted whether the right honourable baronet had sufficiently defined some of his propositions, or properly estimated the opposition it was likely to meet with.

Mr. E. BALL said the attempt to separate religion from education would meet with the strongest opposition.

Lord R. CECIL objected that the system in existence had not had a fair trial.

Mr. CORDEN said the essential difference between this and other bills was that no portion of the rates to be raised was to be applied to doctrinal teaching, and he saw no difficulty in carrying out such a system.

Mr. HENLEY opposed the bill.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL thought the prospect before the House, so far as it had been developed by the right honourable baronet, was far from encouraging.

Mr. HADFIELD hoped the bill would share the fate of its unlucky predecessors. (Laughter.)

Mr. W. EWART approved of the Voluntary principle, and thought a rate was the best means of carrying it out.

Leave was given to bring in the bill.

#### ENCUMBERED ESTATES COURT (IRELAND).

Mr. WHITESIDE moved for returns.

Mr. HORSMAN said that any returns that might be in existence should be produced.

#### NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART.

Mr. VERNON moved an address for copy of correspondence between the Government and Mr. Sheepshanks.

#### THE TEA AND SUGAR DUTIES.

Mr. GLADSTONE gave notice that on Friday, he should move, "That this House will not grant any addition to the rates imposed by the Customs' Duties Act of 1855 on tea and sugar."

At the adjourned meeting of the dealers in and importers of tea, held yesterday at the London Tavern, the committee appointed at the previous meeting reported that they had had an interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to whom they submitted a proposition that, instead of the scale of duties recently announced, a fixed duty of 1*s.* 4*d.* per pound shall be adopted for the next three years. After that period the final reduction to 1*s.* per pound will take place. As Sir G. C. Lewis was desirous of learning whether this proposition met with the approval of the trade, a resolution accepting a settlement upon the terms proposed was carried at yesterday's meeting.

In the Bankruptcy Court, yesterday, there was a dividend meeting in the case of W. J. Robson. The Crystal Palace Company tendered a proof against the estate for 17,893*l.*, being the loss sustained by the company through the fraudulent transactions of the bankrupt. The meeting was adjourned, with a view to further investigation.



## TO SUBSCRIBERS.

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## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"R. H. P."—Too late for use. We have reason to believe that the "suicidal policy" to which he alludes will be abandoned, and that the Sunday question will not be raised this session.

"W. Davies."—The *British Controversialist* has fully discussed the question on both sides, but Mr. Dymond's essay is perhaps the ablest argument against capital punishment.

"A Member of the Congregational Union."—Silence is both politic and dignified. The opinions of the speaker he refers to are not worth much amongst educated Dissenters.

"Sentinel" will see that our space is pre-occupied.

"Georgius" can only claim a vote for the county of Middlesex in respect of property situated outside any of the metropolitan boroughs. But he may be both a borough and county voter if he has separate qualifications.

The following important notice has just been issued by the Postmaster-General: The Australian mails will, in future, be transmitted from this country by the route of Suez; and, in order to facilitate their transport across the Isthmus, as well as to secure their contents from injury during their long voyage, they will be made up in wooden boxes. These boxes will be of a uniform size, and of the following dimensions, inside measurement, viz.:—

Length ..... 25 inches

Width and depth ..... 13 "

and no parcels of newspapers can be transmitted by the post to the Australian colonies, if they exceed the above dimensions.

In order to publish a full report of the Religious Liberty dinner at the London Tavern last evening, we have thought it desirable to delay our publication for a few hours. We trust this explanation will satisfy our subscribers, the majority of whom will, we have no doubt, receive their copies of the paper by the mail leaving London on Thursday morning.

## The Nonconformist.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1857.

## SUMMARY.

PENDING the decision of the House of Commons on the Budget of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, both branches of the Legislature are almost inactive. The question to be decided on Friday night is in effect whether the course of retrenchment, now commenced, is to be followed up so that the Income-tax can be entirely dispensed with in 1860. Sir G. Lewis seems to imply that such will be the Ministerial policy. On Monday, he laid before the House an estimate of the revenue for the financial years 1858-9, and 1859-60, with which he compared the expenditure of 1853-4, the year immediately preceding the war, when the country spent about fifty-six millions. If, by this allusion, the Chancellor of the Exchequer wishes it to be understood that the Government intend to return to that year as the standard of our peace expenditure, much of the opposition of the House of Commons will be disarmed. It would be a retrenchment both feasible and salutary to reduce our disbursements in the next three years from 65,474,000*l.* to 55,840,000*l.* But we fear the Chancellor of the Exchequer is unwilling to look so far ahead, and that any such flattering deductions as we have drawn from his supplementary statement, are owing rather to his own or the reporter's obscurity, than to his real intentions. But Friday next will clear up all doubt on the subject. Meanwhile, the proposed new arrangement, with respect to the tea and sugar duties, has elicited a prompt and angry remonstrance from the trade, who complain of the serious derangement of mercantile operations by this departure from a settled plan. They suggest that instead of a new descending scale of duties on tea, a fixed rate of 1*s.* 4*d.* should be adopted for the three years ending 1860. Sir G. Lewis, alarmed at the probable consequences of his unsettling proposition, seems disposed to agree with the importers and dealers in tea. Who can tell what shape the Budget will eventually assume?

Since the introduction of the Lord Chancellor's ill-digested measures for altering the jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts, the House of Lords has held but brief sittings. Lord Brougham has

introduced a valuable bill for securing the property of married women, but has postponed its further consideration for six weeks, during his lordship's absence from the country on account of his health. During that period the House of Lords will have little employment; so that the temporary retirement of the veteran law reformer will scarcely be missed. We observe that the Lord Chief Justice himself suggested that Lord Brougham should be appointed head of the new Department of Public Justice. In this case there is no doubt that Lord Campbell was only giving expression to the unanimous feeling of all law reformers. The necessity for such an office is seen in the abortive measures just introduced by Lord Cranworth, whose high reputation as a judge is overshadowed by his incompetence as a legislator. According to present appearance, the promised law reforms of the session are likely to become "a mockery, a delusion, and a snare." Lord Derby in the Lords, as well as Mr. Cobden in the Commons, is to make a motion on the Canton outrage which will test the strength of Lord Palmerston in both Houses.

The education question is once more before Parliament. Yesterday Sir J. Pakington obtained leave to bring in a Bill for the promotion of elementary education in cities and corporate towns, by means of a permissive rate. Such a measure comes before the House of Commons somewhat opportunely. The education grant has been so augmented that it will this year amount to nearly half-a-million, and other measures are devised for providing education for the children of the dangerous classes. Thus Sir G. Grey has a Bill for permitting rates to be laid in towns, for schools for juvenile criminals. Sir Stafford Northcote, by extending Mr. Dunlop's Act to England, provides for the education of vagrant children. Our pauper schools, such as they are (and no one objects to their reform), instruct some thousands of children whose parents depend upon the poor's-rate. We should really like to know what classes Sir J. Pakington proposes to comprehend in his new pauper (we mean "free") schools. Criminals and vagrants are already provided for, and in each case, parents are to be compelled, if possible, to pay for the instruction of their children. The proposal of the Worcestershire baronet has, therefore, the distinguishing merit of providing eleemosynary education for classes who can afford to pay, while the poor man is mulcted by the State for the culture given to his offspring. Absurdity can scarcely go further. But even in Manchester itself, there are mutterings of the storm which will ere long break over the head of our theoretic State-educationists. A few days ago, there was a meeting of citizens to oppose Sir John's rate nostrum. The speakers had avowedly a pecuniary interest, being owners of small houses, which are already heavily rated; but they urged various general reasons against the education rate, such as the injustice of paying to educate the children of persons with 2*l.* to 3*l.* a week, the insufficient proportion which would be paid by wealthy men living in out-parishes where there were few children; the large amount of existing school accommodation; the low charges for education; and the uselessness of providing for children who would not attend. We are curious to see how Sir J. Pakington or Mr. Cobden will meet these cogent objections to their scheme.

Some argument against these pauperising expedients for realising visionary advantages, is to be found in the indications of increasing self-reliance and prosperity. The late ticket-of-leave panic has altogether shut out of view many hopeful symptoms. Thus, it appears from a return just issued, that, while in January, 1856, the number of persons receiving parish relief in England and Wales was 876,655, in January, 1857, they were reduced to 843,430—a little over three per cent. In adult paupers there has been a diminution to the extent of eight per cent. The receivers of parish relief out of a population of about 20,000,000 are about 140,000—a very striking indication of the prosperity of the country and of the independent spirit of the population. Even in respect to our criminal class we have been too much panic-stricken; for, according to the statement of the Home Secretary, the number of *commitals* to assizes, county sessions, &c. (exclusive, of course, of summary convictions), had fallen from 25,972 in 1855, to 19,433 in 1856—a reduction of upwards of 20 per cent., in spite of the disbanding of the militia, the release of convicts whose sentences have expired, and the pressure of local distress in various parts, not the least in the metropolis.

England has a large criminal population, and a great deal of labour which, from exceptional causes, cannot find a market, but her condition is enviable compared with that of our neighbour across the Channel. It is difficult to estimate the extent of pauperism and consequent suffering in France. Such unpleasant subjects are rigidly excluded from Parisian journalism. But private accounts speak of the severe distress which prevails in

consequence of the late inundations, the short crops of last autumn, and the exhaustion caused by the late war; and the tone of the Emperor's Speech at the opening of the Legislature, however guarded, indicates that the social condition of the French people is anything but satisfactory. Louis Napoleon has an aptitude for autocratic addresses, and a clear nervous style which our Royal speech-composers might envy, if they did not study the "palpable obscure" in their annual productions. It is of course full of self-laudation, skilful flattery, and vague promises. The Emperor, however, promises to fulfil, as far as can be, the expectations of a people who depend upon a paternal government, engages to diminish the expense of public works, and to increase the pay of the rank and file of the army and of the lower class of officials. But the peace establishment of the army is to be increased by twenty thousand, though an arrangement is to be made by which in the course of a few years, a limited number of the soldiers will be placed on the footing of an army of reserve. Trade and commerce are flourishing, and there is to be no new loan. How far the representations of the Emperor are correct is only matter of conjecture—but it is certain that this system of reserve and concealment of the truth must eventually entail violent results.

We have the most contradictory news about the Persian war. Accounts from Teheran speak of extraordinary displays of popular fanaticism—some 30,000 people meeting and remaining together for the whole day to hear the Shah's firman read containing the counter-declaration of war against England. But when we turn to Paris the scene changes, and we find Ferouk Khan and Lord Cowley quietly negotiating terms of peace, with every prospect of a favourable issue. Hostilities have not been resumed at Canton, for the sufficient reason that Admiral Seymour has not sufficient troops at his command. But there were rumours of the intervention of the Pekin Emperor with a view to a pacific arrangement, and we are glad to find, from the statements made in both Houses of Parliament, that the reported firing of red-hot shot into the crowded city is unfounded.

The death of Mr. Brookes, the ruffian who assaulted Mr. Sumner in the Senate House, has been the occasion of strange scenes and still stranger eulogies. In accordance with custom, we presume, the Senate at Washington attended his funeral, and its halls re-echoed the praises of the man whose friendship was "delicious," who stood "in the Thermopylæ of American freedom," and who was pronounced to be a Brutus to be held in immortal reverence for his patriotism. But while this melancholy burlesque has been enacting, Congress has found time to admit two new free states to the Union, Oregon and Minnesota, almost without a word of discussion. How will the Southern party redress the balance in favour of slavery?

## NOTES FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The week has been one of lively interest, although not eventful. The bark yclept "Palmerston," thrown on her beam ends on the first night of the session, has righted, or, at least, so nearly so, as probably to have escaped imminent danger. It required, however, very prompt and energetic measures, and the cutting away right and left of superfluous burdens, to save her from her impending fate. The dexterity and luck of the noble lord at the head of the Government seem to have once more rescued himself and them from going down to that political abyss—the loss of office. Last week, expectation was tolerably confident that Disraeli would sail between him and the wind, and by cleverly taking advantage of a rising popular gale, leave him distanced. But the very manœuvre by which Dizzy intended to pass Palmerston, Palmerston has adopted to pass Dizzy. The Premier would not wait to be beaten on Tuesday—and so his Chancellor of the Exchequer, so dogged in his determination not to anticipate the usual period for making his financial statement, was actually pushed forward to make it on the earliest day of the session on which the forms of the House made it practicable, and he scrupled not to take credit to himself for being thus prompt to meet the country's wishes. After all, no man knows better than Palmerston the art of making a virtue of necessity.

There was a full House at an early hour on Thursday. Mr. Stafford had put upon the paper a notice that he would ask Sir Robert Peel whether the report of a speech of his in the *Times*, referring to the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia, M. de Morny, and the Prince de Ligne, was correct. A personal affair of this sort is sure to draw. Several questions had been put and answered amid the general hum of conversation, which is one of the inconveniences of a crowded House when proceedings are of an ordinary character; but as soon as Mr. Stafford rose there was a sudden hush, and curiosity peeped forth from every countenance. He read his question from



the notice paper without a word of comment. There followed a momentary pause. Where was the honourable baronet? Was he really going to shirk a disagreeable scene? It could not be—it was unlike him. No! There he is—there is his round, florid, moustached face, emerging from the obscurity which reigns behind the Speaker's chair. He does not even hang back, as he might do, at the corner of the table—he pushes his way to its centre, and looks the House boldly in the face. But he is plainly flustered a little—forgot for a moment his well-arranged reply. Only for a moment, however. He tries back, and hits the right clue. There is a frankness and *bonhomme* in his tone and bearing which upsets any disposition that may have existed to be gravely indignant. He admits the correctness of the report, and in the same breath pays a compliment to the press. He explains certain offensive phrases in a way so irresistibly droll, that the House resounds with laughter; and he concludes by offering an *amende honorable* so ample, as to extort a cheer of satisfaction. For our own part, we could not "muster up sufficient indignation," as Lord Palmerston phrases it, to condemn the honourable baronet very severely. His offence was too great freedom and familiarity of speech in describing the notables of other countries: and perhaps it is as well that they should occasionally hear the truth of themselves, although the voice that utters it finds its way through a breach of diplomatic etiquette.

But another scene of a more exciting character was to follow. Lord Palmerston rose and confessed that in denying the other night the assertion of Mr. Disraeli that the convention between France and Austria to which the right honourable gentleman had referred as "a treaty" was signed, he found he had been mistaken. The document had been signed (a roar of triumphant cheers from the Opposition), but the contingency which was to have given it force never having occurred, the convention never was other than a dead letter. Awkward, it must be confessed, even if literally true—awkward for the noble lord's reputation for accurate knowledge of foreign affairs. Disraeli asks permission to say a few words. Of course, he has his revenge upon the noble lord for having on the first night of the session laughed at "the treaty" as a pure "romance." Then, it had no existence. Since then it had become a "convention," but was never signed. Now at length it is admitted to have been signed, but was merely temporary and limited, and never had any application. After roasting the noble lord for these admissions, Dizzy reiterates his statement that there is a secret treaty between France and Austria, the object of which is to guarantee to the latter her Italian possessions—that not only is it signed, but it has been extensively acted upon—and that it contains on the face of it no limitation of the period of its operation. He seems to have the agile Premier on the hip at last—the Ministerialists look glum—the Opposition shout in wild delight. This will never do! The noble lord rises a second time, to expose the move by which, as he says, the right honourable gentleman endeavours "to cover his ignominious retreat from his first position." A bold taunt for one who has just admitted an error—a doubtful one, too, as its reception by the House proves! What was Mr. Disraeli's first position? That the said treaty had been executed, not only with the knowledge, but at the instigation of Her Majesty's Government. "At the instance," puts in Disraeli across the table. "No," replies Palmerston—"instigation. I heard the word, and recollect it." "Instance, or advice," repeats Dizzy, more excited. "Well, advice," rejoins Pam, and his voice is instantly drowned in a shout from the Opposition. "Oh!" but continued the noble lord with extraordinary excitement, "it was 'instigation'—I heard the word distinctly." And then he goes over the whole case again, ending with a renewed expression of his belief that the right honourable gentleman had been imposed upon. But neither of the combatants came out of the encounter without a scar. The leader of the Opposition had thoroughly committed himself when he taunted the Government with making professions of concern for liberal Government in Italy, whilst they had in their pockets a secret treaty which they themselves had instigated, guaranteeing to Austria her Italian possessions—and Lord Palmerston had made a serious blunder by denying the very existence of a treaty which—whatever may be the real purport of its provisions—not only had a being, but had been read by his antagonist. The mystery can only be solved by the production of the treaty itself, which, as it never had any force, Lord Palmerston can surely publish without difficulty, always supposing his version to be the true one.

This affair over, the House rapidly thinned and subsided into more sober mood. On the motion of Mr. Napier, a long discussion took place on the question whether there ought not to be, "as an urgent measure of administrative reform," the formation of a separate and responsible department for the affairs of public justice. The Attorney-General,

on the part of Her Majesty's Government, admitted that there ought—in a word, omitting the words we have inserted between inverted commas, accepted the motion of the honourable and learned member for Dublin University. Here the matter might well have ended. But it did not. It was a lawyer's field-night, and every legal gentleman present insisted upon having his say, as a matter of course. The needless and wearisome debate carried us on far towards midnight, when, after a few minutes spent in introducing Sir W. Clay's Bill for the abolition of Church-rates, Captain Leicester Vernon made a fierce attack upon the President of the Board of Control for "removing," as he phrased it, General Pollock from the Board of the East India Company. The gallant member performed his part to general admiration, and got up a pretty strong feeling against Mr. Vernon Smith, which the right honourable gentleman did not allay by the opening passages of his reply. But substantially his answer was sufficient—he had not re-appointed the General, because he wished to put a better man in his place—Sir H. Rawlinson. The fact is, we believe, that the General is very old, and is as deaf as a post—and a place at the India Board does not seem to be the fittest reward for a successful general. But then, as Mr. Disraeli asked, why was he appointed to it only three years before? Mr. Vernon Smith's decision is a virtual censure of Sir C. Wood's much belauded exercise of patronage.

Another brisk fusillade on Friday to the damage of the Government. On the motion that the Speaker leave the chair, Mr. Layard asks for papers on the subject of the Persian war, and shadows forth the mischief in which the House may become presently involved, when a war begun without consulting Parliament, and conducted hitherto without parliamentary intervention, may be concluded by a treaty binding this country to engagements of which it knows nothing, the fulfilment of which would perpetually embroil us with Central Asia. Lord Palmerston cannot produce papers while negotiations for peace are going forward. "The boasted supervision of this House over the foreign policy of the Government is a farce," says Mr. Roebuck. Lord John Russell steps forward to the rescue of his noble friend, who, however, does not escape the more subdued criticism of Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Disraeli, and Mr. Milner Gibson. One thing is certain, that although we shall probably be denied an opportunity of pronouncing any opinion until the affair is all over, we shall have to pay half the bill of expenses.

And now for the Budget. We are close upon five o'clock, and the House is crowded. Mr. Speaker leaves the chair. Mr. Fitzroy takes his accustomed place, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer rises. No doubt, reader, you are prepared to read a graphic description of a most lively evening. Well, picture to yourself a heavy-looking gentleman with a feeble voice, and an intolerable drawl, opening a financial statement which he is unable to vitalise by a single spark of sentiment. Conceive of him making wide gyrations before he stoops to his quarry—wheeling round and round with the most provoking deliberation, when your only interest is in seeing him come to the point—telling you, in half-formed sentences, and endless tables, what you either knew before, or what you did not care just then to be informed of—combating objections to which you never attached the slightest force—discussing theories of taxation which for the time being you would gladly have relegated to the next debating society—occupying two mortal hours in keeping you from getting even a glimmer of what he was about to do. It would have required a rapid flow of eloquence to overbear the general feeling of impatience. But Sir George Lewis is not exactly rapid, nor does his eloquence flow. His information was poured out, or more properly, trickled out, a few drops at a time, and then intervened a pause which the right honourable gentleman diligently devoted to a study of his papers. At last, he came to the financial plan of Government for the ensuing year. There was an anxious silence. The announcement dropped out that the war addition of ninepence in the pound would be surrendered. Instantly, there was a cheer, and a sudden rush to the door. Nearly half the House streamed out into the crowded lobby, each retreating member being probably intent upon conveying the important news to an expecting friend or constituent. But the Chancellor had not yet done. He had disclosed his intentions with regard to the Income-tax—but how about the war duties on spirits, tea, coffee, and sugar? These being chiefly poor man's questions, excited little interest. So by the time the Chancellor had concluded, the greater portion of his audience had disappeared. There was, of course, much desultory conversation on topics mooted by the right honourable baronet's speech, but the debate was postponed by general consent till Monday.

On Monday, appearances promised a keen

struggle. It was evident enough that the Opposition had felt the force of a heavy whip. The benches were crowded. Dizzy looked mysterious. Gladstone sat back with his hat over his eyes, lost in meditation. Lord Derby was in the Peer's gallery, holding confidential talk with the Tory whipper-in. But as usually happens on occasions of special interest, there intervened a matter of lesser importance. The Attorney-General for Ireland had to move the expulsion of Mr. James Sadleir from the House, and he is a long-winded lawyer. The facts of the case lay in a nutshell; but Mr. Fitzgerald could not forbear amplification. A debate arose, in which it was feared every lawyer in the House would feel it his duty to take part. Happily, not above seven availed themselves of the privilege, and the motion for expulsion was unanimously voted about half-past six. On the question that the Speaker leave the chair, it came out that an amendment on the Budget which Mr. Disraeli proposed to move, could not be brought on in Committee of Supply. He arranged, therefore, to present it as an amendment to the bringing up of the report on Tuesday. But in this case, the Navy Estimates would come on in committee. Mr. Gladstone objected to this, it being essential to keep the Estimates untouched until some decision should be arrived at touching the balance of income and expenditure. He would not allow the Speaker, therefore, to leave the chair, unless he received an assurance that the Navy Estimates were not to be proceeded with. Government made no sign—and so Lord John Russell rose, and in a few words backed Mr. Gladstone's reasonable demand. Lord Palmerston saw it was necessary to give way—and hence, the House rose at half-past seven o'clock—the all-important debate on the Budget having been finally fixed for Friday next.

The proceedings of the House on Tuesday evening were unimportant. The most interesting notices were one after another withdrawn, and the only motion debated was that of Captain Scobell for a Select Committee of Inquiry on Naval Administration. Sir C. Wood opposed the appointment of such Committee, and the vote of the House sustained him by 97 to 76. Business was at an end by half-past seven.

#### THE BUDGET.

WHEN the tumultuous excitement of joyful feelings occasioned by a sense of immediate relief has somewhat subsided, one is apt to compare his convalescence with his normal condition—to measure his existing state not by the standard of antecedent disease, but by the permanent laws of sound health. We shall do well to judge of the Budget after a similar fashion. Peace has been re-established in Europe one entire year, so far at least as relates to fiscal arrangements. We are now about to re-adjust our national expenditure from an extraordinary to an ordinary scale. The immediate relief is, of course, immense. But it would be very unwise to allow the satisfaction with which we hail that relief so to dazzle the eyes of our judgment as to gain our consent to a permanent rate of taxation considerably higher than the exigencies of the State demand, or than we should be prevailed upon to grant when our feelings are calmer and more evenly balanced. The degree of light which would appear quite sufficient to a man who has just undergone with success the operation of couching, is not, after all, overpowering as may be his gratitude for obtaining it, a fair measure of the amount of light which the restored organ will hereafter require. It may seem ungracious to criticise with minute nicety at a moment when it is most natural to take what is given with unmixed thankfulness—but, in reality, our most amiable feelings are oftentimes the unsafest advisers of our judgment, and many a man in an outburst of momentary joy throws away advantages the loss of which both he and his will feel for many years to come.

The present year, be it remembered, is not an ordinary one. Far more than most, it is a representative of a future series. The scale of expenditure we now fix will inevitably be taken as the lowest scale by which our peace establishment is to be regulated. There will be no difficulty in gradually expanding it, but a moral impossibility of contracting its limits. And as we are called upon to take into our calculation not the present year alone, but many future ones, so we are under special obligations to consider not our own interests only, but those of others. To a large class, the abolition of the war ninepence will be the removal of so crushing a burden, that they will regard with a careless eye the continuance of duties and imposts which press with proportionable or even heavier weight upon others less able to bear it. And yet the experience of the country from 1841 to 1853 amply proves that the removal of burdens which press upon the springs of industry is really of more importance to the well-being of the great mass of our fellow-subjects, although in operation it may be less sensibly felt, than the largest remission of



direct taxation. Moreover, it is certain that, our future trading and commercial prosperity will be materially affected by the standard at which we fix our defensive establishments for the present year.

These considerations claim from us that we should examine the Budget of the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a conscientious care more scrupulous than we ordinarily give to annual financial statements. What then, in few words, is the actual substance of the Chancellor's proposals? Stripped of official ornament, it is this, that we should retain for one year more a war tax on income to the amount of twopence in the pound, and for two years after that to the amount of fourpence in the pound, *in time of peace*, besides deferring the reduction of certain customs' duties which by law should be in the process of rapid diminution. The Budget is not one of relief, but of additional taxation to a very considerable amount. The cessation of war ought of itself (and would, if the law were left to take its course) to bring down the additional taxation which was imposed solely for the purpose of carrying on the war. It should (and it would, if not interfered with), remove the extraordinary pressure which prevented certain graduated reductions on prime articles of commerce from taking effect, by suspending the vitality of those laws which had already determined those reductions. So that we are really called upon to interpose between existing Acts of Parliament and our own benefit, in order that we may fix upon ourselves for the next three years a considerable remnant of war taxation in time of peace. And the affair is so managed, that whilst we are thus permanently increasing the scale of our burdens, we seem to be receiving a large and timely concession, and are expected to be hugely grateful to the Ministry whose fiscal plans will entail upon us these disagreeable results.

We admit, indeed, that close upon two millions of additional annual expenditure is required for the liquidation of debt contracted for the purpose of the war, and will be devoted to the payment of the interest, and the extinction of the principal, of that debt. But of what avail is war, unless it bring with it comparative safety? We ought to be now in a position of greater security than we were before the outbreak of the war. We know that we are in no danger, for many years to come, from the aggressive policy of the Court of St. Petersburg. We see France, with whose Emperor we are on terms of cordial amity, largely reducing her military establishments. We have a better understanding with the United States of America than we have had for many years back. If we choose to pursue a dignified and conciliatory foreign policy, there is no reason to be found in our present relations to foreign powers calculated to give us the slightest uneasiness. If, on the other hand, we look round our colonies, we see them rejoicing in the possession of self-government, developing their resources with unexampled rapidity, and becoming more and more capable of providing for themselves all that is deemed requisite for self-defence. It naturally occurs to us, therefore, to inquire why, seeing that the demands for military and naval service are less imperative than at any former time, are we to be saddled with normal armaments three or four millions a year more expensive than has heretofore been thought necessary. And the only truthful reply to this question is that such is the prevailing taste of the present day—the taste quickened and expanded by the late war. We cannot altogether deny it—but since we see the folly of it the least we can do is to resist it to the utmost.

Whether fair opportunity will be given to protest against the unnecessary magnitude of our proposed peace establishments, we are hardly in a position to determine at the present moment. The resolution of which Mr. Disraeli has given notice, and which will come on for debate on Friday next, is susceptible of a double interpretation. It runs as follows: "That in the opinion of this House, it would be expedient, before sanctioning the financial arrangements for the ensuing year, to adjust the estimated income and expenditure in the manner which shall appear best calculated to secure the country against the risk of deficiency in the years 1858-9 and 1859-60, and to provide such a balance of revenue and charge respectively in the year 1860 as may place it in the power of Parliament at that period, without embarrassment to the revenue, to remit the Income-tax." This is all very well, if the desired adjustment be intended to result from a rigid supervision of the estimates of expenditure. But Mr. Disraeli's ordinary supporters are not likely to back any proposal for reducing the expenses of the Army and Navy. It seems to us far more probable that his meaning is to maintain at its full amount the total of our indirect taxes, or even to exceed it if necessary, in order to provide for the entire extinction of the Income-tax in 1860—in other words, to relieve the gentry at the expense of trade and industry. Of course, we must wait for his speech before we can positively ascertain his intentions—but

we fear there is but small probability that he is disposed to cut down our defensive establishments to reasonable dimensions.

On the other hand, there is reason to suspect that Mr. Gladstone and Lord John Russell are *en rapport* with Mr. Disraeli, and they have already intimated pretty distinctly that their object is a large diminution of our military and naval expenses. Should such be the understanding on both sides, the Ministry will be placed in peril in spite of their Budget, for few Radical members would think of voting a permanent addition to our military outlay. The secret, however, will soon be out.

#### "THE PULL AT THE EXCHEQUER."

Who would be a Chancellor of the Exchequer?—the unfortunate individual supposed to impersonate the exhaustless wealth of the British nation, the depository of every grievance bearing upon taxation, the referee for every new-fangled scheme which the ingenuity or extravagance of Her Majesty's liege subjects can suggest for reforming the Government, or any special department thereof. Any City Croesus may, by clever management, escape, or at least mitigate, the ceaseless importunities of the respectable mendicants who have designs upon his purse. But the Chancellor of the Exchequer can scarcely boast that privilege. He is a public servant, and is obliged, by the necessities of his position, to give an attentive ear to one deputation after another, whose proposals, however visionary and clashing, have this in common—that they all converge upon the National Exchequer. His position is about as enviable, and equally unique, with the City gentleman, the hero of one of Sam Weller's Munchausen stories, whose watch, chain, and seals excited the cupidty of the whole light-fingered gentry in the metropolis, though his obesity and upright carriage bore him triumphant through all their assaults, until some cunning pickpocket devised the expedient of making him stoop. Patient and prosy Sir G. C. Lewis is but human, and even his endurance has at length failed him under the importunities of the interests and individuals who desire to have their "pull at the Exchequer." The protest of the guardian of the national purse deserves respectful and sympathising attention. He declared, on Friday night, perhaps with reason, that, looking at the publicity which surrounds public men, at the discussions which take place in that House, and at the vigilance of public opinion and of the press, the Exchequer of this country was in no great danger from personal jobbing and corruption.

The real danger to the Exchequer comes from a totally different quarter. It arises from the useful projects and the ardent philanthropy of various persons, each intent upon realising his own plan for the good of the country. (Hear, hear.) I speak with some feeling upon this subject, inasmuch as it is my lot to receive a great variety of representations either from deputations or in writing, the larger proportion of which are prompted by the best motives and aim at the most useful objects, but all of which it would be impossible to satisfy if the taxes of this country amounted, not to 60,000,000*l.*, but to 120,000,000*l.* a year. No moderate amount of taxation would be sufficient to provide for all the useful objects which are suggested.

We only hope that this fit of economy will survive the present exigencies of the public service, and that the clamorous individuals who besiege the Treasury may be less successful in finding the secret avenue to the State coffers, than were the pickpockets in discovering the fob of Sam Weller's friend. It is necessary to keep watch not only over the Army and Navy Estimates, but over the Civil Service expenditure. The latter, as well as the former, is steadily increasing. Every new demand involves another. Next year the Civil Service Estimates will amount to 7,250,000*l.*—being about half a million beyond the expenditure of the current year. There is a new item of 80,000*l.* for the new public offices, which, if re-built according to the designs furnished, will cost the country in the end some 5,000,000*l.* sterling! County Courts, the expenses of which have heretofore been defrayed by fees, now come upon the Consolidated Fund to the tune of 180,000*l.* The same may be said of the county constabulary, which cost the general Exchequer, for the first time, some 146,000*l.* Another increasing burden is the Committee of Council on Education, which wants an additional 129,000*l.* this year, and, according to Sir J. K. Shuttleworth, is likely, in three years, to require not less than one million. But though the increase of expenditure this year, in consequence of the necessity of economy, is reduced to a minimum, there is but too much reason to fear an annual expansion of the Civil Service Estimates. In the United States, the State Governments manage to make their prisons self-supporting—our judicial and penal establishments cost us 3,000,000*l.*, with every probability of augmentation. Every one is pulling at the National Exchequer. There are, said the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his speech on Friday—

Numerous plans for museums, for collections of science

and art,—all of them highly useful, and tending to the improvement of all classes of the community,—not confined to London, but proposed for Edinburgh and Dublin, and even for other large towns in the United Kingdom. There are plans for the laying out of parks in the metropolis and other large towns, and also a plan for the purchase of Hampstead-heath. There are numerous plans for widening the streets and improving the approaches and communications of the metropolis. There are plans connected with bridges in the metropolis and elsewhere. There are plans for electric telegraphs connecting the most distant regions of the earth, passing, however, under thousands of miles of sea. There are also numerous and undoubtedly most beneficial plans for the extension of education, and for the erection of schools of different sorts and for different classes. Furthermore, there are all those plans and proposals, of which we used to hear so much last session, for the increase of half-pay and superannuation allowances, and for allowances to widows and other persons who have suffered from the consequences of the war.

Nor is this all. Ministers, with all their professions of economy, are diligently preparing fresh burdens for the British tax-payer. We say nothing of the cost of Ecclesiastical, Charity, Statute Law, Civil Service, and other Commissions, which we now look at in the light of established institutions. But ere long we shall have a Department of Justice. There is a new Commission for collecting a national gallery of portraits of distinguished Englishmen. The National Gallery at Kensington Gore will soon come upon the Exchequer; model farms and similar gimcracks have not yet ceased; and Schools of Design, though a signal failure, will continue to draw upon the national resources. Mr. Monsell, the new President of the Board of Health, is not yet re-elected, and but waits the opportunity of submitting his scheme of paternal despotism. He proposes, we are told on authority, to bring in a "Public Health Bill," continuing the board for five years, and giving to it and to local boards, powers for regulating, in a sanitary point of view, all that pertains to sewerage; the cleansing of streets, houses, and factories; the supply of water to towns; the police of slaughter-houses; the regulation of burials; the formation and maintenance of pleasure-grounds; and the management of public baths and wash-houses. In the event of this Bill obtaining the sanction of Parliament, a series of Bills will be brought in, the working of which will of course be entrusted to the General and Local Boards of Health. Among these we may specify bills to regulate—1. The education, licensing, and registration of medical practitioners; 2. Vaccination; and 3. The sale of poisons. What next, and next?

In view of these demands upon the National Exchequer, there is but small hope of returning to the expenditure of 1853-4. Year by year the expenses of our Government increase. Does the nation discern improvements corresponding to the extra burdens entailed on it? If not, we are only increasing the patronage and omnipotence of the central power, and endangering the liberties of the subject for nothing. It is the people of England rather than the Government, that are to blame for these augmented burdens—because it is they that give ear to specious schemes of national education, museums, boards of health, and scientific establishments, in the fond belief that the public good is being promoted. Unfortunately, it is men distinguished in science, literature, and the arts, that concoct and press forward these jobs for absorbing the public money—men who, in spite of their intelligence, draw their political creed from France and Prussia, and have but a poor idea of that self-reliance and individual energy which distinguishes their own countrymen.

We desire to raise our voice of warning in this matter, because we are persuaded of the injurious influence (in the long run) of these "new-fangled" establishments, and because heavy taxation presses upon the springs of industry, and eventually upon the moral welfare of the population. In truth, the country cannot stand this augmenting expenditure. Its pressure is too galling. It is not alone the central Government that increases its demands upon the public pocket. The area of local taxation is simultaneously expanding. Public libraries, baths and wash-houses, have become a recent burden upon the rates. The Police Bill of last session is a further drain upon local resources; and now the local taxation of the country is threatened with the charge of an education-rate, with reformatories for juvenile criminals and reformatories for vagrants, and no one knows what besides!

Beneath this pressure of taxation, brought on by over-legislation and meddling interference with matters beyond the range of Government, the country, will some day find itself obliged to ask for the *quid pro quo*—and should it discover no legitimate benefits resulting from this complicated State machinery, may at length be disposed to retrace its steps, and discard both in theory and practice, the principle of paternal government.

Mr. Serjeant Channell was sworn in one of the Barons of the Exchequer, in the room of the late Sir J. Alderson, on Saturday, at the Privy Council Office, before the Lord Chancellor.



## Spirit of the Press.

The Financial Statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer is, for the most part, treated with reserve by the principal organs of opinion. The *Times* does not see how, at our present rate of expenditure, the Income-tax is to be got rid of, and is alarmed at the national extravagance.

Confessedly the public does want some sober, business-like rules in dealing with its not inexhaustible purse. There is too much of the scramble in the present process. "First come, first served," or, rather, the strongest hand gets the most; and it is a matter of daily occurrence to fix on the public purse an annual charge equivalent to a capital expenditure of 5,000,000*l.* or 10,000,000*l.* During the three years of the war we have made more permanent addition to the public expenditure for other objects than we have on account of the war itself. The Chancellor of the Exchequer gives a picturesque enumeration of the claims lately made, or still made upon him, and he includes some that have been admitted by Parliament. He has omitted some even more expensive and questionable. The remedy for confusion is to be found in general rules; and it certainly would be worth the attention of Parliament to frame some system for discriminating between national, local, and private purposes. At present there is no discrimination: and the stronger hand, or the more forward, gets the largest handful of the public money.

The *Daily News* complains of the want of explicitness in the Chancellor's statement with respect to the Income-tax, and does not see how it is to be extinguished in 1860. "Notwithstanding the dropping in of the Terminable Annuities in that year, we confess we see no other way of arriving at that desirable goal than the practice of very rigid economy, and it is consequently with regret that we see a further increase intended this year in the civil expenditure of the country." But the Budget has its favourable features:—

As a whole the budget will probably be approved of. It exhibits a large reduction in expenditure; it marks a commencement of further economy; it gets rid of the most objectionable of the war taxes; and though it manipulates two of the others rather mysteriously and dangerously, there is something to be said in defence of temporarily arresting the fall in the tea and sugar duties. The Budget, however, does more than this—it makes provision for the discharge of the first set of Exchequer Bonds falling due, it keeps faith as to the Sinking Fund, and commences the repayment of the war loans in Consols; and thus commences a reduction of the funded and unfunded debt incurred during the war. In this manner it places the Treasury in an easy position, by leaving it an unappropriated surplus for the year 1857-8 of 890,000*l.*

The *Morning Star* calculates that the sum of seventy millions sterling will be the cost of another year's endurance of that highly-spiced luxury, a Palmerston Administration, and wants the country clearly to recognise the price that it will have to pay for it.

What is one million pounds? What are seventy? How far can such sums go? What would they procure if spent in useful purposes? How many railways would they make—how many ships would they build—how many books would they circulate—how much employment would they give—and how much education would they secure? These are interesting questions which ought to be introduced into all the private and public schools of the land for the especial benefit and instruction of those of the industrious classes who may be walking through the streets ragged and hungry, or who may all their lives have been living from hand to mouth, we may notify that if they have no better employment they can begin counting their fingers at the rate of one finger every second of time, and for twelve hours a day, with their Sundays for days of cessation, until they reach the figure which represents the pounds sterling needed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer for twelve months; and how long will this exercise keep an idle man employed? Five years. Or, in order to make ourselves more intelligible to all classes of the community, let us take the population of Great Britain and its islands at the amount specified by the last census return, and how much would every man, woman, boy, girl, and infant have to be taxed directly to yield the Chancellor's lowest estimate of revenue? Three guineas a head. Or, let us suppose that seventy millions for the ensuing twelve months were raised by a direct tax upon every inhabited house in Great Britain, some three millions five hundred thousand in all. How much per house? Just 20*l.* No matter whether inhabited by the wealthy millionaire or the pauperised peasant—no matter whether you call it a palace, house, cot, or hovel, the cost of our present Whig government for the ensuing year represents a rent of 20*l.* upon every roof which covers a man or a family in England, Scotland, Wales, and the islands that adjoin.

In the same spirit writes the *Press*, which has become a thorough economist for the nonce:—

Either the expenditure published by Sir G. C. Lewis last evening is intended to be of a permanent or a temporary character. On this point the Legislature and the public should be thoroughly satisfied. If intended to be permanent, the Government propose what the result, we are fully convinced, will show to be impracticable. The country will not permanently maintain establishments at a cost exceeding 20,000,000*l.* Sooner or later retrenchment will have to be adopted, and that retrenchment will probably assume, as it has heretofore assumed, a most injudicious shape.

The Conservative journal has the strongest conviction that if the House of Commons sanctions the extravagant expenditure proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it will betray its duty to the country, and ultimately impair, instead of strengthening, the efficiency of our national defences.

The *Examiner* and *Spectator* are more favourable critics. The former is well assured that the new arrangement of our establishments and imposts will

hit a tolerably fair mean between the blessing of Judah and the curse of Isachar. The latter considers that the whole attack designed by the Opposition on the score of excessive estimates and maintenance of the grand war-tax has disappeared; and the Ministers, in lieu of the Opposition, stand forward as reducers of the estimates, repealers of the additional Income-tax. For the time, therefore, their position in relation to the other side appears to be reversed; they have the advantage and the popularity. Having repaired that part of their lines upon which the first opposite attack was directed, Ministers have recovered some strength for the session, and will have to stand or fall by the success or failure of their own measures.

The Lord Chancellor's bills for reforming the Ecclesiastical Courts have brought down on his head the invective of the *Times* and *Spectator*. Here is the portrait of Lord Cranworth as drawn by the leading journal:—

What shall we say to an Administration saddled with an incubus, haunted by a spectre, and on whose shoulders a perpetual Old Man of the Mountain sits inexorably astride? It is sad, but it is the simple truth! The Lord Chancellor—we say it with unfeigned respect for his office—is such a spectre, and such an incubus to the present Government. Year after year he appears on the woolsack in the House of Lords, and—differing from the domestic ghost in this, that he is only too visible—night after night he potters and chatters and hems and haws, and mumbles and fumbles over this bill and that bill, until that venerable assembly is fairly bored and frightened out of its propriety, rejects all the bills in a panic, and rushes to an adjournment to escape the intolerable apparition of the Old Woman of the Woolsack, who inspires it with such unmitigated disgust.

The *Spectator* is scarcely less severe:—

Can the country only get rid of the Cranworth Chancellorship by removing the Palmerston Administration? It is the fashion to put every question to a select committee, and there is no public question more pressing at present than this—"By what mode could the operation be performed, to rid us of the Cranworth without upsetting the Government?" Any mode would be acceptable. No one desires to injure or hurt the best of men; no one desires to read the epitaph which he will so well deserve, or to degrade him from an eminence which his virtues adorn. If he could only be abolished by promotion—"improved off the face of (Parliamentary) creation!" It is difficult, since the Woolsack is next the Throne. Yet it is possible. *Æneas* was made a constellation: why not make Cranworth a Duke? It would be sound economy, if a provision were the difficulty, to give him a revenue out of the funds of the Law Amendment Society.

The *Times* gives a notable instance of shameless legislative extravagance, which may be read in connexion with our own remarks elsewhere:—

The House of Commons has recently sanctioned a survey for Scotland on the scale of five feet a mile, and it is now being carried on with contour lines every twenty-five yards. It will give every Scotch proprietor, at the public expense, a better map of his 1,000 or 2,000 acres of moor than is possessed by any English gentleman who has not gone to great expense for such a purpose. It will faithfully record an infinite variety of crags, depressions, gulleys, water-channels, scrubs, tufts, &c., only visited by wild game, and an occasional sportsman in pursuit of them. A great number of the objects to be recorded, such as huts, fences, and roads, are in the process of destruction, and will soon only survive in the map. It will be more than a third of a mile long, and will cover about forty acres. Of course, it will suspend all private surveying in Scotland. One proprietor, by the moderate payment of 1,500*l.*, has obtained an immediate application of the act to his own estate, so barren and thinly peopled as to make a survey almost ridiculous; and it is estimated that the survey of that estate alone will cost the public 35,000*l.* The survey of all Scotland will not be completed in less than thirty years, and will cost more than a million. Over thousands of acres it will cost more than the value of the land. To the public at large it will be perfectly useless; it cannot be comprehended in any portfolio or book; and, even supposing the tourist to obtain a few sheets, he would find that at the ordinary rate of posting he passed in half an hour out of one sheet into another.

The *Sun*, apropos of Sir W. Clay's Church-rate Abolition Bill, energetically summons Dissenters to renewed conflict. If they only used half their power, or put forth half their strength, it is quite certain that they might compel the Government to move, and the House of Commons to do its part. "We believe they could even vanquish the House of Lords." We trust the following stirring appeal from an independent journalist will not be lost upon our friends:—

Let Dissenters bethink themselves of their forces. They have, even without much stir of late, had majorities, and respectable ones, and against the Government too, in the House of Commons. The heir to the house of Derby is on their side. They have many representatives in the House, and some of them men of mark; and they have in their favour, as Lord Stanley observed, both in the House and out of it, a growing sense of the necessity of religious equality. The House of Commons wants but a few vigorous turns of the popular screw, to be induced to bury Church-rates in the grave where lie Test and Corporation Acts, the old Marriage Laws, and a host of other laws of far more terrific ecclesiastical character. Then, the people. Why, more than half the worshippers were proved by the census to be Dissenters; to these must be added the vast numbers of liberal Churchmen who detest putting their hands into their Dissenting neighbours' pockets, to pay for their own worship. Why, if these mighty elements were stirred as they might be, there would be such a commotion, such a flight of petitions, such a succession of public meetings, that Lord Palmerston is not the man to brave it all; nor is his five-year-old Parlia-

ment the assembly to forget that the votes of Church-rate payers would soon have their value.

Church-rates belong to the hateful class of direct taxes; of hard-cash payments; of payments which by no economy can you escape; and which, despite all theories, people do and will detest. We verily believe the Churchman himself, "in the good time coming," will give his larger voluntary contribution with much more pleasure than he now pays the compulsory Church-rate. Now, therefore, is the very time for Dissenters to ask their Church neighbours to help them to get rid of this unjust tax—this direct tax—this irreligious tax—this parish war-tax. We believe Dissenters, if they girded themselves to the conflict like men, and determined to relieve us of this House of Commons nuisance, and this parish vestry nuisance, would be astonished with the support they would gain by showing themselves determined to win. What tires the patience of the country is the annual skirmish without result. All would join if the announcement of Dissenters was—we will submit no longer.

We give, therefore, to Dissenters the advice which we gave on the War Income-tax—advice with which public opinion turned out to be coincident—the old, but, while we have a House of Commons, the not antiquated advice—Agitate! Agitate!! Agitate!!! If Dissenters will but do their part, we promise them the best services we can offer. We are confident every Liberal journal would do the same: and the parish pest of Church-rates would be got rid of for ever.

In an article on the Manchester Education Scheme, the *Leeds Mercury* draws attention to the remarkable speech of Sir James P. Kay Shuttleworth at the Manchester meeting of Friday:—

It will there be seen that this gentleman expresses his alarm at the system of capitation grants, which was last year extended by a stroke of the pen from the rural districts to the towns of England. Our readers will remember how earnestly and repeatedly we called attention to this reckless act on the part of the Committee of Council on Education, the effects of which, in enormously increasing the education grants, without the shadow of necessity or of advantage, we clearly pointed out. How it was that Sir J. K. Shuttleworth was then silent, we do not know. Nor can we understand the conduct of the House of Commons in thus shamefully squandering the public money. But the "alarm" of Sir James is a tardy tribute to the justice of our views on the subject. It is also still more remarkable that Sir James should now be full of concern at the "centralisation" of the Committee of Council, a body which was his own creation, and against which, when first proposed in 1847, we urged this very objection with all our might. Sir James Shuttleworth informs us that the Education grant is this year to be 540,000*l.*; last year it was 450,000*l.*; the year before 350,000; and a few years before 100,000*l.* This is a pretty rate at which the Committee of Council are throwing about the public money. And our Manchester economists, instead of calling upon them to stop, are asking Parliament to add to the Committee of Council on Education a local committee of the same kind in every parish, to lay rates on the people at their discretion!

## ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

In respect to the West Kent election we are informed that Sir Culling Eardley, Bart., has expressed his intention, in writing, to give his support to Sir Walter Riddell, in consequence of the opposition of the latter to the Maynooth grant, notwithstanding the difference of opinion between them on general politics. The paramount importance of that question, he conceives, renders it advisable that all other matters should defer to it. The nomination of candidates took place on Monday, at the Shire House, Penenden-heath. Sir Walter Riddell, the Conservative candidate, expressed his intention to oppose all concessions to the Church of Rome. He pledged himself to support no party, but to remain unfettered. While consenting to the changes inaugurated by Free-trade, he said they must not permit the Manchester school to have too much influence in financial matters. Mr. Martin then addressed the meeting. He declared that he supported Sir W. Clay's Church-rate Abolition Bill and an extension of the suffrage, considering that many lodgers ought to possess votes. He opposed the ballot as a mere mechanical device, and said he should probably give his support to Lord Palmerston's Government. The Rev. Mr. Talbot, of Tenterden, said that although he was no Catholic, he could not help putting a question on behalf of his poor Irish fellow-countrymen to the honourable baronet on the subject of his expressed intention to vote for the discontinuance of the grant to Maynooth. He also wished to know whether he would be prepared to allay the indignation that such a proceeding must occasion in Ireland, to do away with the grants made to all religious denominations in that country, by supporting a measure evicting the religion of the majority of the people of that country—the state religion of Ireland? Sir W. Riddell said he should not enter into a discussion of the condition of Ireland at that moment; and with regard to the questions that had been put to him, he would say that he certainly should not consent that the Roman Catholic religion should be the religion of the state in Ireland. As to the suggestion that the discontinuance of the grant to Maynooth would cause excitement or anarchy in Ireland, he did not believe it would have that effect; but, at all events, he was not prepared, at that moment, to say what ought to be done in the event of such a state of things occurring. A show of hands was then taken, which was declared to be in favour of Mr. Martin. A poll was demanded by Sir B. Bridges on behalf of Sir W. Riddell, which was fixed to be taken on Thursday (to-morrow.)

Mr. James Clay was returned for Hull on Wednesday without opposition. He was unseated on petition in 1853.

The result of the poll on Friday, for Hereford city, was as follows: Clive (Liberal), 399; Davies (Conservative), 230: majority for Clive, 169. A large portion of the constituency refused to poll, and ab-



agreed themselves from the town with that view. There was much excitement, but no serious disorder. Mr. Clive declares himself an independent supporter of the Palmerston Government; for an extended education preparatory to an extension of the franchise; in favour of the ballot; of more liberty to the people on Sundays; and a supporter of Maynooth.

Mr. Frewen has resigned the contest for North Leicestershire. The constituency comprises in all about 3,600; of these, 1,756 signed the requisition to Lord John Manners. The canvass returns show a majority of at least ten to one in favour of Lord John. In the Melton district, which comprises more than half of the whole voters, the electors were almost to a man in favour of Lord John. During the past week Mr. Frewen's friends had posted and circulated upwards of 20,000 handbills, and enlisted in his favour all who would recall the grant to Maynooth, whether Dissenters or Churchmen; but it was utterly impossible to make head against the Rutland interest, and his agents gave up the contest. It is believed that in the whole county, including about 3,600 voters, Mr. Frewen's agents had not secured 200 votes.

At a meeting held a few days since at Brighton, Mr. Dodson, the Liberal candidate for East Sussex, said he was in favour of an extension of the principle of free trade by the abolition of the hop duty and the reduction of the malt tax. He was opposed to all grants from the national revenue to any particular religious denomination, though he would refuse to support a measure dictated, not by a principle of broad national policy, but by religious animosity. He was a member of the Church of England, but opposed to that form of it known as Tractarian, and inclined, in case of England being led into hostilities with foreign powers, to watch with suspicion the movements of the Roman Catholic priesthood. He was of opinion that the suffrage should be extended by the admission of qualifications which would give the right of voting to clerks, skilled artisans, and others, now precluded by living in lodgings. With regard to education, he preferred the Canadian system to that of the United States. Lord Penvensey, the Tory candidate, is in favour of the repeal of the Maynooth Endowment, and against the opening of the Crystal Palace and similar places of recreation on Sundays.

Mr. Hope Johnston was returned for Dumfriesshire on Thursday, without opposition. He sat for the county before 1847.

The Solicitor-General was elected for Butehire on Thursday, also without opposition.

Mr. John Macgregor has been asked by the electors of the second municipal ward of Glasgow to come forward and give some explanation of his share in the "palatial" occurrences connected with the Royal British Bank. The letter containing this modest request is dated the 31st December. It has not been answered; and a general movement for the purpose of repudiating Mr. Macgregor is talked of.

The Hon. Captain Bernard, Tory, has been returned for Bandon, by a majority of thirty-two over Mr. Shaw, Ministerialist.

The Downpatrick election on Wednesday took a singular turn. Mr. Johnston, the Ultra-Tory candidate, raised an objection on a point of form, which the assessor stated could only be decided by the House of Commons; and, having polled only one vote, his opponent, Mr. Kerr, who may be described as a Moderate Conservative, was elected, 137 electors having voted for him. The election will be decided by a petition.

A writ has been issued for the election of a new member for Londonderry, in the room of Sir Robert Ferguson, who has accepted the stewardship of the manor of Poyning.

In Limerick county there is not likely to be a change; Mr. Monsell, the new President of the Board of Health, being unopposed.

The Clonmel election has resulted in the return of Mr. Bagwell by an overwhelming majority. Mr. Murray, it appears, served some notice of objection to Mr. Bagwell's eligibility to be elected, on the ground that his conducting agent is sub-sheriff of the county of Tipperary. Mr. Bagwell's friends soon perceived that there might be something in the objection, and resolved that his brother, Mr. Bagwell Purefoy, of Greenfield, should be put in nomination at the eleventh hour, to provide against the contingency of the elder Mr. Bagwell being unseated by petition. This course was acted on, and about three o'clock on Monday, after 180 votes had been polled for Mr. Bagwell, and some seventeen votes for his opponent, Mr. Murray. Mr. Bagwell Purefoy was proposed and seconded, and a new conducting agent appointed for him. The voting was then carried on for him and Mr. Murray, and at the close of the poll, at five o'clock, the numbers were—Bagwell, 183; Purefoy, 50; and Murray, 29.

Mr. Cox has issued an address to the electors of Tewkesbury, declaring his firm intention again to contest the borough on the Conservative interest, and deprecating the requisition to the Hon. F. Lygon. The presentation of a piece of plate to Mr. Humphrey Brown, M.P., will take place on Monday next, when the gallery is to be reserved for ladies only, and the promised "British Bank" revelations are positively to be made.

#### REFORMATORY AND REFUGE UNION.

On Wednesday afternoon, the first annual general meeting of this society was held, under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury, at Willis's-rooms, St. James's. The large room was completely crowded by ladies and gentlemen, and on the platform were the Earl of Chichester, the Earl of Ducie, the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, Lord Charles Russell, Lord Henry Cholmondeley, the Hon. and Rev. J. Pelham, Sir Stafford Northcote, M.P., Mr. T. Chambers, M.P.,

Mr. Russell Gurney, and many other ministers and gentlemen.

The Hon. and Rev. J. PELHAM having opened the proceedings with prayer,

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY said that the reformatory principle was one which was regarded on all hands as necessary in the highest degree. It was, in fact, a necessary consequence of the state of society in which we now lived that there should be reformatories, in order that young criminals might by timely reformation be saved to become an assistance and support to the institutions of the empire under which they were born. There must be reformatories as well as industrial schools. It was impossible to combine both these branches of the same reformatory institution under the one roof, and to teach both at the same school, for innocent children could not be subjected to the taint which necessarily, and, perhaps, rightly, attached to all children who broke the laws of their country. It was necessary that there should be a separation between the classes, and therefore it was that this reformatory and refuge union had been established, and appealed now to public sympathy and support. From the first annual report they would see two plans by which they hoped they could render the greatest service to the cause of reformatory all over the kingdom, and also that it was proposed to establish a ship reformatory in the river Thames—a plan which was singularly adapted to the wants of this metropolis, in which such children as came to reformatories invariably gave a preference to the seafaring life. The society also proposed to discharge a great local duty which none of the local reformatories would take on themselves, viz., to superintend all the arrangements necessary for the emigration of the children. From his own long experience he knew that these local institutions had neither the knowledge nor time to undertake that duty for themselves, and the society would also undertake the duty of preparing fitting guardians and receptacles at the other side of the water, where the children would be taken care of until they were properly disposed of. But, continued the noble chairman, a reformatory scheme to be complete must also include some plan for the adult criminal. It was undoubtedly a more difficult task to reform him than that of correcting the children, but it was also, in its way, a most necessary one. That, he thought, was not the place to discuss the ticket-of-leave question, but at least he might impress upon them that there were vast numbers of ticket-of-leave men who had only undergone sentences of short periods, and who, unless some help was given to them, would soon be found among the ranks of deep and hardened criminals. (Hear.) He believed many of the ticket-of-leave men were anxious to work if they could obtain it; and he believed, on the other hand, there were many who would not take any work—no matter how remunerative—that might be offered them. There were some in whom vice was a confirmed habit and a second nature, and who would not quit their evil courses even if it was made more profitable to them so to do. (Hear.) There were many important difficulties which beset and always would beset the ticket-of-leave class. But unless this question was early taken in hand, it would ere long become impossible for any authority, however powerful, to grapple with it properly. The consideration of all these facts drove them back to the consideration of the preventive system, which, combined with reformatories, he believed, would all but be able, under God's blessing, to overcome a great part of the mischief which now threatened them.

The SECRETARY then read the annual report, which, after dwelling upon the great success which had attended the efforts of the society at the outset, went on to state that, with a view of obtaining that information as to details which was of so much assistance in reformatories, they had offered prizes for the best essays on their practical management to the masters and matrons of such institutions, and they had also taken steps for supplying well-trained superiors "of tact, discretion, ability, and good temper." The report then entered into details as regarded the plans for the reception of emigrants, for social meetings, lectures, interchange of inmates, and other topics of a similar nature, including the correspondence system and plans for the grants of libraries. The receipts to the general fund amounted to 1,081l. 5s. 6d., of which sum there was a balance in hand of 317l. 15s. 2d. The metropolitan fund receipts amounted to 2,299l. 4s. 6d., and had also exceeded the expenditure by 425l., which remained as a balance.

Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE moved the adoption of the report. The value of this Reformatory Union could not be overrated, as he was prepared to prove from his own experience of that small reformatory with which he had the honour of being connected in Devonshire. With regard to placing out the children well, he knew that the managers of local institutions found the greatest difficulty in that respect; and here the services of this society would be of unappreciable advantage. In order to reclaim the depraved, they had a great work thrown on their hands, for the classes from which the ranks of juvenile criminals were recruited seemed almost inexhaustible. But the way to grapple with that subject was to enforce the parent's responsibility for the part maintenance of his child while in the reformatory. In two great towns of this country—Newcastle and Liverpool—he was informed, on the best authority, that since this parental responsibility had been strictly enforced the number of neglected children running about the streets of those towns had decreased to one-half. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. T. CHAMBERS, M.P., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously. They must be careful that the reformatory system did not itself become a kind of temptation with the wretched to dishonesty; they

must not do too much, and incur the charge of placing honesty at a disadvantage. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. RUSSELL GURNEY then proposed a resolution to the effect that "as it is highly important for the well-being of reformatories and refuges that State assistance should be so administered as not to check the voluntary efforts of Christian philanthropists, the meeting commended the judicious manner in which encouragement had recently been given to the reformatory work by the Government; and approved the determination of the committee of the union to bring immediately before the Legislature a bill to empower the authorities to save young children from a vagrant life, and to deter and punish those by whose neglect they are exposed to such an evil course." After briefly alluding to the great necessity that existed that no institution of that nature should be managed by Government, but by volunteers, the learned gentleman went on to say, with regard to the criminal population, that he for one certainly did not regret transportation had been discontinued, since it at least had had the effect of making the public perform its duty, and reform their criminals instead of merely getting rid of them. Some remedy must be devised to meet the great evil—an evil which, as regarded the juvenile offender, was fast accumulating, as all might see by looking over the returns and averages of the last five years. The provisions of Sir S. Northcote's bill would counteract this evil, by making the expense of part-maintenance of the child while in the reformatory be borne by the parents; that at least they should pay something more towards his keep than it would have cost them to keep the child honest at home. (Hear, hear.)

The Hon. A. KINNARD briefly seconded the resolution, illustrating what might fairly be hoped and expected from the working of the reformatory principle by what had taken place at Glasgow, where no less than eighty per cent. of those who had passed through the reformatory schools at that place were now doing well, and many of them holding situations of trust and responsibility. (Cheers.)

The resolution was carried unanimously, as was also a vote of thanks to the chairman.

#### JUVENILE VAGRANCY.

On Monday evening a general meeting of the joint members of the Law Amendment Society and the National Reformatory Union was held at No. 3, Waterloo-place, to consider the bill recently brought before Parliament for the suppression of juvenile vagrancy. Lord Brougham presided, and among others present were the Bishop of London, Sir Stafford Northcote, M.P., Lord Robert Cecil, M.P., the Lord Mayor, the Hon. Mr. Liddell, M.P., the Rev. Sidney Turner, and a deputation was also present from the Birmingham Educational Association. The Bishop of London moved, "That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that a measure for the suppression of juvenile vagrancy, which is a fertile source of crime, should be enacted." It must be obvious to every one that the private efforts which are made, admirable as they are for this end, are still quite unable to encompass the evil effectually. It seemed to him to be one of those things which call for legislative interference. If the Legislature was justified in punishing crime, surely it should take upon itself the means for the prevention of it, and he saw no mode so likely to effect that object as the measure now proposed by Sir S. Northcote. The Lord Mayor seconded the motion. His experience had shown him that one of the greatest of existing evils was juvenile delinquency. It was quite true that for the most part juvenile vagrants were orphans, and if we could provide them with homes in the way proposed an immense saving would be effected to the State as well as good to the children themselves. He suggested that if the Government would allow some of the old men-of-war ships to be used as reformatory schools they would be admirable adapted to carrying out the object in view. Sir Stafford Northcote, in reply to several questions, said the payment to be made by parents was not so much to relieve the poor-rates or Government funds as to impress a feeling of responsibility upon parents of the fulfilment of their duty to their children. Since the operation of this provision the number of vagrant children had materially diminished, though in few cases had parents paid the full amount of 5s. a week. They are, however, compelled to pay as much as they can. The effect of the pressure thus exercised had been, that parents had been afraid of the charge upon them, and either bent their children to school, got them employment, or kept them at home, instead of allowing them to prowl about the streets on the chance of their being taken up by the police and committed to a reformatory. The resolution was carried unanimously. Considerable discussion took place on the details of the measure, and the suggestions contained in the report of the committee, in which the Chairman, Lord R. Cecil, Sir S. Northcote, the Rev. S. Turner, Mr. Elliott, Mr. D. Power, Mr. A. Hill, Mr. Anderton, and others took part. Some modifications in the details of the bill (which appeared to meet with the general support of the meeting) were then made by Sir S. Northcote, and the proceedings were brought to a close. The meeting was very well attended.

The Army Estimates for the year 1857-58 amount to 11,225,533l., of which 8,993,658l. goes for the effective, and 2,231,875l. for the non-effective. The number of men required for the service of the year 1857-58 is 126,796, against 246,716 last year—equivalent to a decrease of 119,920. The original estimate of last year was the same as the revised, as regards the number of men.



## Foreign and Colonial.

## FRANCE.

## THE EMPEROR'S SPEECH.

The Emperor opened the session of the Corps Legislatif in the Salle des Maréchaux at the Tuileries, on Monday, at one o'clock. He was received with shouts of "Vive l'Empereur!" The diplomatic corps, including the Persian mission, the magnates of the army, the clergy, and the magistracy, as well as the great officers of State, were present, and the ceremony was gone through with great pomp and apparent enthusiasm. The Emperor took his seat on the throne in the Salle des Maréchaux, with Prince Jerome on his right hand and Prince Napoleon on his left. His speech opened as follows:—

Messieurs les Sénateurs et Messieurs les Députés.—Last year my opening speech ended with an invocation of the Divine protection. I besought Him to guide our efforts in the way that should be most conformable to the interests of humanity and civilisation. That prayer seems to have been heard.

Peace has been signed, and the difficulties of detail arising from the execution of the Treaty of Paris have come to an end by their being fortunately surmounted.

The dispute that arose between the King of Prussia and the Helvetic Confederation has lost all its warlike aspect, and it is permitted us to hope soon for a favourable solution.

The good understanding re-established between the three protecting Powers of Greece renders henceforth useless a prolonged stay of the English and French troops at the Piræus. If a regrettable disagreement has taken place respecting the affairs of Naples, we must still impute it to that desire which still animates both the Government of Queen Victoria and my own to act everywhere in behalf of humanity and civilisation. Now that the best understanding prevails between all the great Powers, we ought to work seriously in regulating and developing the national wealth and resources at home. We ought to contend against those evils from which society in a state of progress is not exempt.

After some disquisition on the progress of civilisation and on the claims of the nation on the Government, the Emperor proceeds:—

To enlighten and to direct—this is our duty. The country prospers; that fact is undeniable, for, notwithstanding the war and the dearth, the onward movement has not slackened. The product of the indirect taxes—the sure index of the public fortune—has surpassed in 1856 by fifty millions the amount yielded in 1855, which itself stood out exceptionally favourable. Since the establishment of the Empire these revenues have spontaneously increased, without taking new taxes into the account, by 210 millions.

Nevertheless, there is among one portion of the community great suffering, of which, unless Providence send us a good harvest, the millions given in private charity and by the Government will be but feeble palliatives. Let us then redouble our efforts to remedy those evils which are beyond the reach of human foresight.

During the past year several departments have been attacked by the scourge of inundation. I have every encouragement to hope that science will be enabled so far to control nature as to prevent the recurrence of these calamities. It is with me a point of honour that in France the rivers shall be made to return, like the revolution, to their channels, no more to leave them.

After a reference to the injury of imaginary alarms, he said:

Considering the various exigencies of the present situation of affairs, I have resolved to reduce the expenditure, without suspending the great works which are going on, and without compromising the substantial results which have been obtained. I have resolved to diminish certain imposts without impairing the finances of the State. The budget for 1858 will be presented to you, duly balanced. All the items of estimated expenditure which can be foreseen are included in it. The amount produced by the loans will prove to have been sufficient to defray the expenses of the war. All departments of the public service may be provided for, without our being obliged to have recourse again to public credit.

The estimates for the War Department and Marine have been reduced within due limits, care being taken to preserve the *cadres*, to respect the degrees of rank which have been so gloriously gained, and to maintain an armed force worthy of the greatness of the country. It is with this view that the annual contingent has been fixed at one hundred thousand men. This number is twenty thousand below that of the ordinary enlistment in time of peace. But, according to the system which I have adopted, and to which I attach great importance, about two-thirds of these conscripts will only remain two years with their colours, and are afterwards to form a reserve that will supply the country at the very first appearance of danger with an army of six hundred thousand disciplined men.

The reduction of the effective force will permit me to improve the pay of the lower ranks and of the line—a measure which the dearth of provisions renders indispensable. In like manner, it yields a sum of five millions to begin with, for raising the inferior salaries of some of the officials in the civil departments, who, amidst the hardest privations, have set a good example of probity and devotedness.

Nor have we forgotten to set apart a grant for the purpose of establishing a line of transatlantic steamers, the creation of which has been so long required. Notwithstanding these increased expenses, I shall propose to you to suppress, from the 1st January, 1858, the war tithe added lately to the registration dues. The abolition of this will be a sacrifice of twenty-three millions; but as a compensation for it, and in conformity with the wishes expressed on several occasions by the Corps Legislatif, I have caused to be taken into consideration the imposition of a new duty on all negotiable share property (*valeurs mobilières*).

It is then stated that the penal settlement of Guiana is to be removed to Algeria, that measures will be proposed for the cultivating the "landes" of Gascon, and for completing the military penal code. The speech proceeds:—

Messieurs les Députés,—Since this session is to be the

last of your legislation, permit me to thank you for the devoted and active assistance that you have afforded me since 1852. You have proclaimed the Empire. You have taken part in all the measures that have restored order and prosperity to the country. You energetically supported me during the war. You shared my grief during the epidemic and the season of scarcity. You shared my joy when Heaven gave me a glorious peace and a well-beloved son. Your loyal co-operation has enabled me to consolidate in France a form of government based on the will and interests of the people. It was a difficult task to perform, for which real patriotism was essential, that of accustoming the country to new institutions. To supersede the licentious freedom of the tribune, and those stirring contests that announced the fall or elevation of Ministries, by free, but calm and serious debate, was a signal service to the country, and to liberty itself; for liberty has no enemies more formidable than the excesses of passion and violence of speech.

Strong in the assistance of the great bodies of the State, and in the devotedness of the army—strong, above all, in the support of this people, which knows that all my time is consecrated to its interests, I foresee for our country a future full of hope.

France, without injury to the rights of any one, has resumed in the world the rank that was her due, and may devote herself in security to the promotion of all that is most truly grand in the works of the genius of Peace.

May God not be weary of protecting her, and soon may we be able to say of our age what a statesman, an illustrious and national historian, has written of the Consulate, "Satisfaction was universal, and whoever had not in his heart the evil passions of party spirit rejoiced at the public happiness."

Enthusiastic applause greeted this speech. The Minister of State declared the session opened, the new deputies took their oaths, and the Emperor departed with the same ceremony as on his entrance amidst cheering and salvos of artillery.

A madman in Paris attacked the Empress on Thursday. No arms were found upon him. He declared that his intention was merely to embrace her.

## ITALY.

After a long and tedious debate, lasting through some twenty sittings, the Turin Chamber of Deputies has at length passed the bill for public instruction by a majority of seventy-five votes against fifty-five.

The *Parma Gazette* of the 7th instant contains a decree, by which the Regent grants full and entire pardon to fifteen political prisoners, and commutes for eight others the punishment of imprisonment into exile out of Europe for a similar number of years. Letters from Parma of the 8th announce that at seven o'clock on the morning of that day the Austrian troops evacuated the city and duchy of Parma.

The Neapolitan Council has decided upon declaring Naples a free port—also, a liberal revision of the Customs Tariff. A proclamation is in circulation, calling upon the people to avenge the death of Agostino Milano.

Accounts from Naples state that the State prisoners, with the exception of six, had all rejected the offer of their freedom, on the condition of being transported to Buenos Ayres. As an article in the convention between Naples and Buenos Ayres expressly provides that none of the emigrants are to be transported against their will, this unexpected refusal of the prisoners may render this arrangement a dead letter.

A letter from Naples to the *Cattolico* states that Monsignor Rosconi, Archbishop of Acerenza and Matera, has exhibited signs of insanity since the execrable attempt upon his life by a priest.

There has been a sad tragedy at Mantua. A young man named Bianchi being at the Theatre, and not approving the performance, began to hiss. An Austrian officer told him that if he did not cease he should turn him out. Bianchi retorted, and a discussion ensued, which ended in a challenge. The duel was to have taken place next morning, but in the meantime Bianchi was arrested by the police, and the officer, having gone to the ground, and not finding his adversary, withdrew. After a day's imprisonment, Bianchi was liberated; and having again entered the theatre, he met the officer, who loaded him with abuse. Bianchi replied, and the officer attempted to draw his sword, but the young man knocked him down with his fist. At this moment, four officers entered, who had been waiting at the door, and at the same time a patrol, which had been attracted by the noise. The patrol arrested Bianchi, but the officers ordered the guards to release him, which they did after a few observations had been made. No sooner had the patrol left, than the officers drew their sabres, and Bianchi defended himself with a chair. The bystanders, who were without arms, endeavoured in vain to interfere; the unfortunate Bianchi fell, after receiving thirteen wounds, from which he has since died. There has been great agitation in Mantua. A deputation, consisting of the municipality, chamberlains, and other personages, has gone to Milan to request his Majesty to adopt measures to put an end to the insolence of the Austrian officers.

## TURKEY.

The Sultan and his Ministers had become subscribers to the Smyrna railway. The town of Candia is to be rebuilt, and the disasters of Sinope repaired. Numerous pilgrims go to Jerusalem. A proposition had been made to the Porte for constructing a railway from Illyria to Adrianople. The *Presse d'Orient* says that the French administration of the Imperial messageries had come to an understanding with that of the Russian packet-boats for the establishment of a reciprocal service. Henceforward, the boats of the Imperial messageries will only be six days on the way to Constantinople from Marseilles.

Correspondents at Constantinople and Aleppo describe the state of religious toleration in Turkey.

Converts from Islamism are now suffered to live among their friends unmolested. The wife and child and mother-in-law of one convert have rejoined him, and their re-union is likely to lead to conversion also. Their Turkish neighbours do not think of separating the Mussulman members of the family from the rest. This indicates a great change of public feeling, and shows how the authorities, at present at least, view and treat such cases, in honourable observance of the late Hatti-Humayoun (i.e., royal constitution). Another case illustrative of this improved spirit is that of a Turk who lives in the city with all his family professing Christianity (till of late Islamism), and attending Christian worship at one of the chapels. This man refuses to seek personal protection by removing to a Christian quarter—he thinks it now unnecessary. He has a trade and earns his bread, and though often reviled for his new vows, only replies with meekness and firmness, and has thus far remained protected by the tolerant spirit of the Government and people.

## AMERICA.

Owing to the severity of the weather, the harbour of Boston was covered with ice, and a passage had to be cut through it for a distance of eight miles, before the America could proceed to sea. The ice was two feet thick.

The President had approved the bill compelling witnesses to testify before Congressional committees, and it is now the law of the land.

The Senate debated the new treaty with England for three hours, without coming to any decision. Treaties, and the question of accepting or rejecting them, being a part of the executive function of the Senate, are discussed in secret session. Strong doubts are expressed whether the treaty will obtain the support necessary to ratify it.

The House of Representatives has passed bills almost without remark for the admission of the territories of Oregon and Minnesota as states. The proposed State of Minnesota would embrace about 70,000 square miles, leaving west of the boundary line about 90,000 square miles to be organised into a territory under the name of Dacotah. The committee on territories estimated the population at from 175,000 to 200,000.

The Hon. Preston R. Brooks, well known as the "caner" of Mr. Sumner, in the House of Representatives, died at Washington on the 27th ultimo, at Brown's Hotel. He had been in bed a day or two, suffering from the effects of a severe cold. He was telling his friends he had passed the crisis of his illness, and felt considerably improved in health, when he was seized with violent croup, and died in about ten minutes afterwards. He expired in intense pain. His death was announced to the House of Representatives by Mr. Keitt, who bestowed much eulogy on the public and private character of Mr. Brooks, and on his exploits in the Mexican war; and said that "in his bearing the deceased was frank and honest, in dispute severe, and in friendship delicious." Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, added that Mr. Brooks was "a man of a most kind heart and tender sensibilities." Another member, Mr. Savage, thus expressed himself:—

History records but one Thermopylae, but there ought to have been another, and that for Preston S. Brooks. Brutus stabbed Caesar in the Capitol, and whatever may be thought of the justice and wisdom of the deed, the world has ever since approved and applauded the act. So shall the scene in the senate-chamber carry the name of the deceased to all future generations, long to be remembered after all here are forgotten, and when these proud walls shall have crumbled into ruins. Had Preston S. Brooks been permitted to choose his own death, he would have fallen in some great battle for public freedom.

After some more speech-making in this strain, the corpse was brought into the House, and in the presence of the members of both branches of Congress, the President and Cabinet, the Judges of the Supreme Court, Mr. Buchanan, and others, the Rev. Mr. Waldo, Chaplain of the House, delivered a brief discourse (making no allusion to the deceased) from the words of our Saviour to the thief on the cross: "This day thou shalt be with me in Paradise." Resolutions were passed condoling with the family of Mr. Brooks, and determining the members of the House should wear crape on the left arm for thirty days.

The Hon. Preston King was elected United States senator for New York on the 3rd inst. He has acted with the Republican party since 1854; previously he was a Free-soiler.

An accident had occurred on the Georgian Railway. Governor Johnson, of Tennessee, and forty other passengers were severely injured.

Nothing heard of Walker's movements for three weeks. Grey Town continued in possession of the Costa Ricans. Walker, hemmed in on all sides, was likely, ere long, to surrender.

## PERSIA.

Dates by the Overland Mail from Bushire are to the 30th of December. It was said that the Persians were contemplating an attack on the British troops encamped near the city.

Accounts from Constantinople to the 6th state that fresh despatches from Teheran recommend Ferouk Khan to make peace with England. A reinforcement of 700 men had arrived from Bombay in the Persian Gulf. An English corps d'armée had arrived in Cabul and is marching with the troops of Dost Mahomed on Herat.

A letter from Teheran to the 3rd January, via Russia, states that Esa Khan, who governed the town of Herat in the name of the Shah, after having defended it against the Persian troops, has been assassinated by an Afghan.

Letters from St. Petersburg say that the bases of the



arrangement proposed at Paris in the conferences between Lord Cowley and Ferouk Khan, are to be the evacuation of Herat, and the restitution of Bushire; England, however, obtaining a portion of territory in the Isle of Karrack, and the right, in the execution of the Euphrates Railway, to pass by Farsistan, Kerman, and Belludschistan.

A letter from Bushire, of the 28th December, in the *Moniteur de l'Armée*, gives some details of the occupation of that place and neighbourhood by the English:—

The part of the army remaining outside the town is in wooden huts, exactly like those used in the Crimea. The head-quarters are on an eminence, to which the name of Balaklava has been given, and the inner bay has been designated "the harbour of Sebastopol." Three days after the place was taken, two Protestant Churches were established. They are in a new quarter of the town, called "Victoria City." A racecourse has also been established, and the first day's running was to take place on the 1st January, the horses of the country being admitted to contest for the prizes. A few days after the installation of the troops, a proposition was made to the General-in-Chief to establish a railway across the town and the English lines, a distance of about two miles. The proposition was accepted, and the line is to be made without delay. A cemetery has been marked out, and surrounded by a wall. In the centre has been erected a monument to General Stopford, killed at the taking of the town.

#### INDIA AND CHINA.

General Outram and his staff sailed from Bombay on the 16th of January. Government was preparing for the immediate despatch of reinforcements, to form a second division for service in Persia. Several interviews had taken place between Dost Mahomed and Sir John Lawrence, but the nature of the communications had not transpired.

Dates from Hong Kong are to the 30th December. All the foreign buildings at Canton had been burnt and pillaged. Admiral Seymour had been throwing red-hot shot into Canton, but at the latest date had ceased hostilities, and was strengthening his position. No attack was made by the Chinese, who appear to have been quite content with burning the houses, by which act they themselves will be the eventual losers. Most of the houses were vacant, but much valuable property has nevertheless been destroyed. Our marines and bluejackets exerted themselves to the utmost in saving property; but the spread of the flames was so rapid that little could be brought away. Shot and shell were thrown from the Dutch Folly during the fire, in order to prevent large bodies of the Chinese assembling near the scene. Two companies of Her Majesty's 59th Regiment were present, and they were now strongly intrenched in the garden. The clubhouse and church being detached from the factories, remained intact, and were excellent quarters for the troops. The lorcha Alma had been taken by the Chinese, who were said to have mutilated the master. The steamer, Thistle, towing the lorcha Anonyma, was attacked by 200 junks, and obliged to abandon the lorcha with her cargo. The bad feeling against the British was spreading to the other ports. It was rumoured that the Emperor was desirous of peace, but that the Cantonese were uncontrollable. Another report was, that commissioners were expected at Hong Kong in February, who were to be sent by the Emperor of China to arrange the differences relative to Canton; but it was not traced to any reliable source. In the mean time, the American Commissioner had addressed a circular to his fellow-citizens, which clearly points to coercive measures. Under "the semblance of a desire to maintain friendly relations," Dr. Parker detects "the same disposition to evade obligation, misrepresent facts, and erroneously interpret treaty stipulations, which for years has characterised the correspondence of the Imperial Commissioners;" and, it is added, "means more ample than those now at command, will be required to meet the emergency of the public interests of the United States in China; and the satisfactory and proper adjustment of the relation of the Five Ports is an event yet future." "Gunboats," it is stated, "are very much required;" and from Calcutta, where a decisive struggle is anticipated, we learn that, in addition to the Ceylon Rifles, one native and one European regiment would be sent from India. "The submission," says the *Friend of India*, "will be obtained, if the city is destroyed stone by stone. It is even proposed to accept an offer made by the insurgents, upset the dynasty, and re-organise the whole Government under new auspices. The French have formally joined the British, and are ready to assist in the next storming party. It is also clear, that the whole of the British residents sympathise with the Admiral. Papers always opposed, unite in declaring that the insolence of the Chinese has become intolerable; that the murders of the missionaries must be avenged; and that the lesson should, in mercy, be short, sharp, and final."

"Among the losses sustained by the burning of the foreign factories at Canton (says the *China Mail*), is to be regretted the irreparable one of Dr. Williams' printing establishment, including the large founts of Chinese type with which Dr. Morrison's "Dictionary" was printed, and which had been presented to Dr. Williams by the English Government in 1844. Besides the types and presses, there was a large stock of books on hand, numbering in all over 10,000 volumes, and comprising the unsold copies of the "Chinese Repository," "Chinese Chrestomathy," "English-Chinese Vocabulary," "Phrase Book," "Premare's Notitia," &c.; in short, the remaining copies of nearly all the works which were issued during the twenty-four years the press had been in operation, and some of which will never be reprinted. Besides these, Dr. Hance's valuable collection of botanical works has been consumed."

#### FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

Public functionaries and civil employes have just been prohibited in Electoral Hesse by the authorities from wearing their beards and mustachios, but "they may retain whiskers of a reasonable size."

The Code Napoleon has just been adopted in Greece.

Count Walewski has been decorated with the Order of St. Andrew, the highest of the Russian Empire.

A Russian ukase has been issued conceding a network of railways,—the works to be completed in ten years. The capital to be subscribed is 275 millions of roubles. Not a fifth of the capital has yet been subscribed, and the appeal will now be made to the great European exchanges.

Marshal Espartero has sent to the Queen of Spain his resignation as member of the Senate.

The Abbé Chatel, founder of the French Evangelical Church, died on Friday, at Paris, in the sixty-second year of his age. In the last years of his life he was reduced to the necessity of earning a subsistence by giving lessons to young children.

It is rumoured on the Continent that the Prussian Government refuses to fulfil that part of its Neuchâtel engagement which implied a renunciation of its sovereign rights over the Principality. On the other hand, the *Prussian Gazette* announces positively that the conferences on the subject will be held in Paris, and that Count de Hatzfeld is to represent Prussia.

Accounts from Sydney to the 18th of November have been received *via* Madras and the overland mail. Trade is represented as exceedingly dull, and the prices of all imports had experienced a further decline, owing to the excessive quantity of goods arriving daily. Advice from Adelaide, South Australia, to the 26th of November, state that the Legislative Council had met under the new Constitution, and that the Governor had delivered his address.

#### STRANGE MURDER IN NEW YORK.

(From the *Times* Correspondent.)

Political matters have been superseded in interest in New York by one of those terrible murders that stand out with awful distinctness in the annals of crime. A Dr. Harvey Burdell was found during Saturday, the 31st of January, dead in his room, at 31, Bond-street, strangled, with fifteen stabs in different parts of his body. The murder must have been committed in the night of Friday, the 30th, but no alarm was heard in the house. There had been no forcible entry, and, as no property upon him or in the room was touched, plunder could not have been the object. The deceased was a surgeon-dentist, in good practice; he was wealthy, and the house, in one of the best streets in the city, was his own. As suspicion from the first did not extend beyond the house itself, every inmate of it was put under arrest as a beginning, and the coroner's inquiry, although it has not yet fixed the guilt on any one person, has revealed a state of things in that one dwelling unrivalled in any romance. Burdell was the owner of the house and lived in it, but was not its master. He had, in an evil hour, become acquainted with a "watering-place" widow named Cunningham, cruising at Saratoga and elsewhere, to whom the wealthy bachelor fell a prey. He installed her in the house, first as a lodger only, next as tenant: she established there a lover, who became lord of the establishment, and two daughters, one of whom introduced a lover into the premises also. While living in the house the widow brought an action against the doctor for breach of promise of marriage, which he compromised by a written promise of constant "friendship," and something more definite—a lease of the house. Then comes the most extraordinary part of the transactions. A few days after the action was put an end to the widow procured some man to personate the doctor, and to that man, whoever he was, was regularly married in October last, by the minister of the Dutch Reformed Church. While obtaining, as far as the law and registers are concerned, the position of Burdell's wife, he, quite unconscious of the singular fraud, lived on very bad terms with her and the whole of the inmates she had gathered round him; there were constant quarrels, and gradually he felt such fear and hatred of the woman, or some of those about her, that he expressed to a friend his terror that something would happen. He said, however, he was always armed, and would "rough it out till May," when he had taken legal steps to put an end to the occupancy or the lease. The foreboding of the unhappy man was realised; on the night of the 31st January, without any previous threat or quarrel stronger than the ordinary indications of ill-will, he was murdered. The present supposition is that the man who personated Burdell, and was married in his name to the woman Cunningham, was her paramour, living in the house—a man named Eckel. The minister who performed the ceremony fully identifies the woman, but cannot speak so confidently of the man. He thought at the time he had false whiskers on, but the suspicion was not strong enough to induce him to make any remark. By the aid of a wig and these false whiskers it is believed Eckel passed himself as the deceased on the occasion, so that for some months Burdell had been living with the man who had been married to his own tenant in his own name. The evidence on this point reads more like a bit of audacious comedy than the horrible tragedy it has turned out to be. The plan was deeply laid, and, could Burdell have been got rid of quietly, would in all probability have succeeded. On the proof of the marriage being established—and the certificate and evidence of the clergyman would have been conclusive—the widow, in the name of

Burdell, would have claimed a third of the deceased's property, which amounts altogether to 100,000 dollars. The previous action for breach of promise, and the terms on which the parties were known to have been, would have explained the marriage; and the question of the personal identity of the deceased would not have been raised. Such a singular complication of affairs as that in Burdell's house could not have gone on long without discovery, but what hastened the blow is not known. The intention of the murderer appears to have been frustrated by a desperate resistance on the part of the victim. The attempt to strangle him must have failed, and the knife been used in a violent struggle. Whether his death was meant to appear as a suicide, or how it would have been explained, can only be conjectured; one supposition is that the body would have been placed in the street, to be found "garrotted," that mode of robbery having lately been extensively practised in New York. But the garroters never mangle their victims in so frightful a manner. No attempt had been made to remove or conceal the body, which was found while the rest of the family was at breakfast, by the doctor's boy, who did not live in the house. The inquiry has discovered motives enough for the murder, but as to whose hand committed it there is yet no evidence, nothing but suspicion that points at the man Eckel. The excitement this murder has caused is very great among all classes, and for the moment nothing else is thought or spoken of.

#### Court, Personal, and Official News.

The Queen, accompanied by Prince Albert and the family, arrived at Buckingham Palace, from Windsor Castle, on Thursday afternoon. On Friday Her Majesty, Prince Albert, and the Princess Royal, visited the Haymarket Theatre, and witnessed the sixth representation of the comedy of *Double-faced People*. On Monday morning the Queen, accompanied by Prince Albert, the Princess Royal, and the Princess of Hohenlohe, visited the New Houses of Parliament, where they were received by Sir Benjamin Hall, Sir Charles Barry, and other officials. The marriage of Colonel Biddulph, Master of the Queen's Household, with the Hon. Mary Frederica Seymour, daughter of late Mr. Frederick and Lady Mary Seymour, and late one of the Queen's Maids of Honour, was celebrated yesterday afternoon, in the presence of the Queen, the Prince, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, the Princess Alice, and the immediate relatives of the parties. The *Court Journal* says that the Queen's accouchement is not expected before April.

The *Observer* believes there will be no dissolution of Parliament this year. Rather a hazardous prediction in the present aspect of affairs.

The Speaker of the House of Commons gave his first parliamentary full dress dinner this season on Saturday. The guests included the principal members of the Government in the Lower House.

Baron Martin has been added to the Royal Commission for inquiry into the statute and common law courts and the courts of assize, in the room of Baron Alderson, deceased.

Mr. Serjeant O'Brien, M.P., is appointed Chief Commissioner of the Encumbered Estates Court, in succession to Baron Richards. By this quite unexpected arrangement a vacancy will be created in the representation of the city of Limerick. The salary of Chief Commissioner is fixed at 3,000*l.* a year. It is now said he declines the appointment, but was present in the House of Commons on Wednesday.

Mr. Thackeray was seized with illness at Halifax on Wednesday, and was unable to lecture either on Wednesday or Thursday. On Saturday, however, he was sufficiently well to fulfil his engagement, though apparently in a weak and suffering state.

Mr. W. E. Baxter, M.P., has been confined to bed by a severe attack of illness.

The labours of the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich have again assumed a warlike appearance. The pyramids of shot and shell are being removed and rolled towards the wharfs, which are again covered with guns, waggons, cases of shot, &c., whence they are conveyed in barges to St. Katherine's Dock, for shipment to China, while the Northfleet freight-ship at the Arsenal pier is engaged in embarking a heavy cargo of war stores of every description, which, by means of the hydraulic cranes, are shipped with extraordinary expedition and small amount of labour.

A Cabinet Council was held on Saturday afternoon at the official residence of the First Lord of the Treasury, in Downing-street.

Viscountess Palmerston "received" on Saturday evening, at Cambridge House. The Duke of Cambridge honoured her ladyship with his presence, arriving about half past ten. Lady Palmerston entertained a select circle at dinner previously to the assembly. Lord Palmerston joined the party early from the Speaker's dinner.

The sixth annual public meeting of the Association for promoting the Repeal of Taxes on Knowledge will take place at St. Martin's Hall on the 25th, Sir Joseph Paxton, M.P., in the chair. The meeting will be addressed by T. M. Gibson, M.P., Herbert Ingram, M.P., Serjeant Parry, &c.

A numerous and very respectable meeting of the tea trade, comprising importers, brokers, and others, took place at the London Tavern on Monday, Mr. Moffat, M.P., presiding, to protest against the proposed alteration of the duty, as recommended in the budget of the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Friday. The whole of the speakers, including Mr. Gillman, Mr. Alderman Sidney, Mr. Lowcock, Mr. Twining, &c., urged that the modified change was altogether irreconcilable with the understanding which prevailed between the Government and the trade,



supported by the evidence of communications with the Customs and other fiscal authorities. It was contended that the present mode of tampering with duties is dangerous, and will produce great inconvenience and loss, particularly when defined regulations under act of Parliament are supposed to guide merchants and traders in their operations. The contemplated trifling reduction, compared with that which should in reality take place, was characterised as a breach of public faith; and, the feeling against it being unanimous, resolutions were passed appointing a committee to represent the meeting, and to request from the Government a different arrangement. A deputation waited upon Sir G. C. Lewis in the course of the afternoon.

### Miscellaneous News.

On Friday evening, a lecture in favour of the Maine Liquor-law was delivered by the celebrated P. T. Barnum, in the Great Western Hall, Market-street, Edgeware-road.

On Thursday last, a dreadful explosion of fire damp occurred in the Pew Fold Colliery, Ashton, about four miles from Wigan, by which three colliers were killed and two others very seriously burned.

On Wednesday evening, M. Kossuth delivered his first lecture in Rochdale, "On Continental Europe," to a large audience, in the Public Hall; Jacob Bright, Esq., the mayor, presided. The second lecture was delivered on the following evening; G. Ashworth, Esq., in the chair.

Edward Akroyd, Esq., of Bank Field and Denton Park, purposes erecting five hundred model dwellings for working people at Halifax. The houses will be let at a rental of 4s. per week, but in ten years they will become the property of the tenants. This is not the first noble effort of Mr. Akroyd to improve the condition of the industrial population of Halifax, particularly the large portion in his own employ.

The convict George Holmes, respecting whose discharge from prison and free pardon by the Secretary of State, on account of "his delicate state of health," so much excitement was recently occasioned in the West Riding, and surprise expressed throughout the country, is again in custody at Bradford, on a charge of stealing a quantity of fowls. He has been remanded. Holmes has undergone an examination by a medical man, who has certified that he is at present in perfect health.

Street railways were ably discussed on Wednesday, at the weekly meeting of the Society of Arts, by Mr. W. B. Adams, who read a paper upon the application of rails for horse traffic. Mr. Adams pointed out the immense advantages of such a system in London, and entered at length into details showing that the present cost of the London omnibuses amounted to 300,000l. per annum, while, after an outlay of 140,000l., an enormous rail traffic through the metropolis could be maintained under a cost of 30,000l. a year.

It appears from a parliamentary return, that the total number of persons of all classes (including children) in receipt of relief on the 1st of January last in 623 unions and parishes in England and Wales, was 843,430, being a decrease of 33,225 on the numbers of the date of January 1, 1856. 139,130 adult able-bodied persons, male and female, exclusive of vagrants, were in receipt of relief on the 1st of last month, being a decrease of 13,044 on the numbers at the corresponding date in 1856. 50,362 of the persons relieved last month were widows.

On Sunday morning last, the very rare occurrence of forbidding the banns took place in the parish church of Mottram, and caused considerable excitement amongst the congregation. When the vicar was proclaiming the banns of marriage, a person arose in the body of the church and forbade the banns between Thomas Rollinson and Grace Gee, stating that his son was under age. In a subsequent interview with the clergyman he stated that his son was only seventeen years of age, while his intended wife was twenty-six, and that they had only been keeping company during one short month.

The late Dr. Bogue's chapel, at Gosport, now under the pastorate of the Rev. F. W. Meadows, was broken into on Monday morning week, and the contents of the missionary box, the school-box, and a box with the seat rents, taken away. Let this be a warning not to leave valuables in a place of worship. The thieves were, by the activity of the police, taken the same day, and committed to Winchester for trial at the next assizes. The case brought out this invidiousness in our laws. Had they stolen from an Episcopalian place of worship, the act would have been sacrilege, but, not being such, they escape the heavier punishment.

On Saturday afternoon, a middle-aged man, named James Smith, by trade a blacksmith, made the following confession of murder at the Halifax borough police-office: "I have come to give myself up. Another man and myself killed the governor of Carlisle gaol about fourteen years ago by throwing him over the bannisters. I have been uneasy in my conscience many years, and now I am determined to get rid of it." Subsequently Smith seemed inclined to withdraw what he had said, or reduce it to a charge brought against him at a public-house; but the superintendent looked him up. The investigation of the case is being vigorously prosecuted by the police, and Mr. Superintendent Pearson has communicated with the authorities at Carlisle.

The last of the course of winter lectures, in connexion with the Young Men's Christian Association, was delivered in Exeter Hall, on Tuesday evening, by the Rev. Canon Stowell; the Earl of Shaftesbury in the chair. After some introductory observations by the noble lord, the reverend gentle-

man came forward and delivered a lecture on "Self-culture." He opened by dwelling at some length on the considerations and analogies which proved the necessity of mental and moral culture. He exposed the great error of measuring a man by his circumstances rather than by his merit, and warned his hearers against the spells of wealth, expostulating, with much force, on the prevalent eagerness in pursuit of gain. He then came to practical rules and suggestions, which he divided into four parts, relating to the care of the body, the culture of the mind, the training of the heart, and the growth of spiritual life. On each of these points he dwelt in an eloquent and attractive manner.

The Court of Common Council held a special Court on Thursday to discuss the recommendations of a committee appointed last year to inquire into the municipal constitution and management. It has been already agreed that the number of wards should be reduced to twenty; that the number of Common Councilmen should be 150; that they shall sit for one year; that the Lord Mayor shall be elected by the municipal electors from Aldermen who have been Sheriffs; and that there shall be no Alderman without a ward constituency, but that this shall not affect the Aldermen at present holding office. On Saturday, the following amendment was carried: "That the Aldermen submit to the Court of Common Council detailed quarterly estimates of their probable expenditure for each next ensuing quarter, and, when approved and ordered for payment by this Court, the Aldermen to draw upon the chamber for that amount, and to present quarterly accounts of the sums actually disbursed in each last preceding quarter." The propositions were then referred back to the corporation Inquiry Committee, who were empowered to confer with the Government respecting them, and to report to the Court.

Captain Sherard Osborn publishes in the *Times* an extract from a letter, dated Red River Settlement, Hudson's Bay Territory, Dec. 6, which he thinks refers to the Franklin expedition. The letter says:—

I have just returned from —, who was at Norway-house last July, and saw the man who brought down the express to Sir George Simpson from Mr. Anderson (commander of the late searching party down the Fish River) in Mackenzie's River (district), stating that Indians had brought over reports to one of the trading posts in that quarter, that Indians had seen two or more encampments of whites on an island or some point near where Anderson and Stewart turned back (1855), and that one of the encampments particularly was quite fresh, supposed to have been abandoned a day or two before the Indians saw it, and from the traces thought there might have been about ten or twelve men. I could not hear of the exact locality, further than that Anderson and Stewart were within a very short distance of the place where the traces were seen. I hope you have heard more particulars about the report.

There has been an exciting race across the Atlantic. The United States mail steamship Atlantic left New York for Liverpool on the 1st instant. Among the passengers was a man named Winter (with his wife), a clerk of a mercantile firm in that city, having in his possession 2,000 dol. belonging to his employers, and which he had obtained by breaking open the safe. On his absence being ascertained, together with the amount of money with which he had absconded, the principal of the firm obtained a warrant for his apprehension, and took a passage by the British and North American mail steamship, Persia, which sailed three days afterwards. The chances were in favour of the criminal clerk; for though the Persia is the fastest steamer afloat, it could scarcely be expected that she would overtake a full-powered steamer, which sailed three days before her. No sign of the pursued steamer was seen until off the port, when the Persia came up with and passed her, arriving in the river two hours before her. On Mr. Hood, the gentleman who boards the Cunard steamers to take charge of the mails, going aboard, he was introduced to the pursuing merchant, who asked with some anxiety, if any one had landed from the Atlantic. On being answered in the negative, he stated the case, and asked for a detective. Subsequently, accompanied by a police-officer, he boarded the Atlantic, and confronted the astounded Winter, whose dreams of security were thus rudely dissipated. Nearly the whole of the missing money was found upon him. He was brought ashore, and now awaits the decision of Mr. Nathaniel Hawthorne, United States' Consul at Liverpool.

### Law and Police.

THE ST. PAUL'S AND ST. BARNABAS' CHURCH DISPUTE.—The case of Liddell v. Westerton has been proceeding before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council during the week. On Monday, Sir F. Kelly was heard in reply, which closed the case. The Court, which was composed of the Lord Chancellor, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, Lord Wensleydale, the Right Hon. T. Pemberton Leigh, the Right Hon. Sir W. H. Maule, and the Right Hon. Sir J. Patteson, reserved judgment.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—This ill-fated corporation will never be out of the hot water of the law. On Saturday, before the Lords Justices of Appeal, Mr. Bacon, Q.C., applied for permission to move for leave to appeal to the House of Lords from the decision of this Court against Mr. Marcus's petition to annul the adjudication in bankruptcy against this bank.

A FASHIONABLE TAILOR AND HIS DUPE.—In the Court of Exchequer, on Wednesday, was tried Woulfe and another v. Probert. The plaintiffs are tailors in Conduit-street, and this was an action to recover their bill for clothes supplied to the defendant to the amount of 107l., while a student at Haileybury College. The defendant having pleaded infancy, the plaintiffs re-

plied that the clothes were "necessaries." It turned out that part of the 107l. was money which the tailor had lent to the lad, and had put down in the bill as clothes sold. The father of defendant declared that he had been amply supplied with clothes from home. The Chief Baron made some very warm remarks upon the case, and the jury returned a verdict for the defendant.

### Literature.

*The Earnest Minister: a Record of the Life, &c., of the Rev. Benjamin Parsons, of Ebley, Gloucestershire.* Edited by EDWIN PAXTON HOOD. London: John Snow, Paternoster-row.

Our readers will require no introduction to the subject of this memoir. Our pages long since recorded our high admiration of the "Oberlin of Gloucestershire." And shortly after, when he was removed from the scene of his arduous, but most productive labours, we paid our sincere tribute to the memory of a plain, out-spoken, earnest man, whose days were shortened by his intense devotedness to the social and religious interests of society.

Such a man's life was worthy to be written. Nor do we think the task could have fallen into better hands. The biographer was closely intimate with the subject of his memoir, and what is better, thoroughly understood, and sympathised with, his purpose and manner of life.

Mr. Parsons was emphatically a "working minister;" a hard-headed, shrewd, practical man, who looked round on the benighted village of which he was the independent minister, saw what had to be done, studied the ways and means, and resolved to do it. And he lived to see all done on which he had set his heart: not all at once, but all some time or other; nor yet all in the same way, but all in some way or other; using men and other means, as a wise commander of the forces, with especial reference to what each could accomplish. Every week witnessed something done; ground cleared of jungle and prepared for future cultivation; prejudices removed, buildings starting up into goodly size; societies, religious, provident, and literary, formed; lectures, Christian, social, political, teetotal, &c., delivered like a running fire almost without cessation; and, he the life and soul of almost every movement, witnessing with infinite satisfaction the moral character of a rude population changed, and a district remarkable for vice and ignorance, becoming almost a model community.

All these things, with large detail, Mr. Hood has told us in this memoir of his friend and counsellor, which is a good guide-book to those who aspire to be "earnest ministers." Not that such will fall mechanically into Mr. Parsons' track. "Genius," says John Foster, "always lights its own fire." Parsons lighted his, and so must all who aim at doing anything the world will not willingly let die.

Mr. Parsons had so triumphantly evoked the latent power of voluntarism at Ebley that no one can feel surprised, that he, a "sarcastic man," with "great individuality," sometimes lost "his temper, in the presence of audacious ignorance and impertinence," ranged upon the opposite side.

"This was Mr. Parsons' position, he looked at his own successes in a most improbable and barren field—in Gloucestershire, not the most enterprising county, and it was as if every advocate of State Education said to him, 'You have failed!' Dr. Vaughan said, 'You have failed!' Sir J. K. Shuttlesworth said, 'You have failed.' Richard Cobden said, 'You have failed!' 'You have failed,' rang from all sides of the House of Commons. Mr. Parsons exclaimed, 'If Voluntarism at Ebley is a failure, what then is success?' He was pledged by his own conquests, as well as by the convictions which had been the parents of those conquests, to the cause of Voluntarism, and for the remaining years of his life he was constantly in the field as the opponent of all Government grants for educational purposes." (P. 290.)

In fact, his whole life was an intensely self-reliant one, and yet with this, as his letters to his family disclose, there was combined a tenderness and love most overflowing, such as would be little imagined by those who heard the political or ecclesiastical invectives that at times poured forth from his excited mind both on the platform and in the pulpit. Mr. Parsons was *sui generis*—few men could have done what he was gifted to accomplish, and, having finished his work, he after a short but painful illness, was removed to the land of rest and safety.

"Dying, he had no occasion to be more religious than he had been every day for years living. He was not indifferent to the world or to literature. He knew he was dying, but he enjoyed a Greek criticism. He could discuss the doctrine of Whewell's Book on the Plurality of Worlds. He was interested in the war, and the last sentiment he uttered to the writer upon it was a confirmation of all his old enthusiasm about peace; even then while we were speaking of the battle of Inkermann, he could not forbear a glance of satire at the notions so long published, that our warfare would now become civilised." (P. 386.)

But we must close these brief notices of a good man's life, urging our readers, which we do heartily, to read Mr. Hood's volume for themselves. There are many things said by Mr. Parsons, and some written by Mr. Hood, to



which taste and refinement, and sometimes philosophy, may take exception, but the book is a good, wholesome, and encouraging book for all that wish to be workers in a world where nothing but real work can meet the wants and relieve the miseries of humanity. One of Mr. Parsons' friends says that he realised the idea of Keble's lines:—

"There are in this land stunning tide  
Of human care and crime,  
With whom the melodies abide,  
Of the everlasting chime,  
Who carry music in their heart  
Through dusky lane and wrangling mart,  
Plying their daily task with busier feet,  
Because their secret souls a holy strain repeat."

### Cleanings.

It is given out that General Tom Thumb received 567 valentines on Saturday last.

Mr. William Howard Russell, the celebrated "Special correspondent" of the *Times*, will shortly commence a series of lectures on Russia and the Russian war.

The following singular advertisement is taken from the *Record*, November 28, 1856: "The vicar of a nice (sic) healthy parish, who is fond of music, wishes to meet with a pious and amiable curate, of similar taste, who plays on the pianoforte.—Address W.D., &c."—*Union*.

The Very Reverend Dean Ramsay, in a semi-private lecture, recently delivered in Edinburgh, on the changes of the last Fifty Years, named the introduction of the pianoforte. A laird of the old school, he said, on seeing a young man at the piano, disgustedly asked, "Can the creature sew or no?"

The claims of seventy-six members of the House of Commons to be wholly excused from serving on election committees, on account of being more than sixty years old, have been allowed. Among them are Sir W. Clay, H. Drummond, W. J. Fox, Sir de Lacy Evans, Sir James Graham, J. Henley, J. Masterman, G. E. Muntz, Viscount Palmerston, Lord John Russell, and R. Spooner.

The Lyons, New York, *Republican* says a lad in that village wished to ascertain how tight his wet tongue would stick to an axe that had been lying in the woodshed all night. The experiment was successful, and the illustration of the tenacity of a frosty axe to a wet tongue far more forcible than pleasing. The little fellow's cries (or attempts to cry) brought his father to his assistance, and the boy, with the axe sticking fast to his unruly member, was carried into the house, and it was some time before they could be made to part company.

The wealth of Croesus, which has passed into a proverb, has been variously accounted for. The possessors of Sardis, the capital of the Lydian kings, were enriched by the neighbourhood of the river Pactolus, which flowed down from Mount Tmolus towards the Hermes, and brought with it considerable quantities of gold in its sand. To this cause historians often ascribe the abundant treasures belonging to Croesus and his predecessors; but Croesus possessed besides other mines at Pergamus, and another cause of wealth is also to be found in the general industry of the Lydian people. They were the first (according to Herodotus) who ever carried on retail trade, and the first to coin money of gold and silver.—*From Timbs' "Curiosities of History."*

### IRTHS.

Feb. 9, the wife of Mr. ROBERT BEWOLANS, of Woolwich, of a son.  
Feb. 9, at 6, Eccleston-terrace South, Pimlico, the wife of Mr. Wm. SETH SMITH, of a daughter.  
Feb. 13, at Clapham-common, Mrs. BENJAMIN FIELD, of a daughter.  
Feb. 14, at 8, Stanley-terrace, Southsea, the wife of Mr. R. H. JACKSON, of a daughter.  
Feb. 16, at Islington, Mrs. J. CARVELL WILLIAMS, of a son.

### MARRIAGES.

Feb. 5, at the Congregational Chapel, Brentwood, by the Rev. John Nunn, of Haverstock-hill Chapel, the Rev. Wm. DORLING, to ELIZABETH ANNE, youngest daughter of the late THOMAS COLBORN, Esq., surgeon, of Brentwood.  
Feb. 5, at St. George's, Hanover-square, by the Bishop of Oxford, Lord ALBERT SPENCER CHURCHILL, second son of the Duke of MARLBOROUGH, to the Hon. HARRIET LOUISA ESTHER GORDON CALTHORPE, third daughter of Lord CALTHORPE.  
Feb. 9, at the Baptist Chapel, Earl's Colne, Essex, by the Rev. John Walters, Mr. THOMAS HAMMOND, of Guildford, Surrey, to MARY TIMSON, eldest daughter of Mr. SAMUEL LEE, of Earl's Colne.  
Feb. 10, at the Tabernacle Independent Chapel, Newport, Monmouthshire, by the Rev. Thomas Gillman, Mr. JOHN FIDDOY, of Nash, nephew to the Rev. T. THOMAS, D.D., of Pontypool College, in the same county, to CATHARINE, third daughter of Mr. JOHN HOSKINS, farmer, of Nash, near Newport, Monmouthshire.  
Feb. 11, at the Congregational Church, Newark-upon-Trent, by the Rev. T. B. Attenborough, minister of the place, Mr. CHARLES MATTHEWS, to Miss SARAH WORTH, both of Newark.  
Feb. 11, at the Congregational Church, Newark-upon-Trent, by the Rev. T. B. Attenborough, minister of the place, Mr. ELIAS BRAMMAR, to Miss ELIZABETH MILLER, both of Newark.  
Feb. 11, at Hall Fold Chapel, Whitworth, by the Rev. R. Robinson, Mr. JAMES THOMPSON, widower, to Mrs. JOHN STOTT, widow, both of Ending.  
Feb. 12, at the Church of the Redemptorist Fathers, Clapham, by the Hon. and Rev. Father Plunkett, Lord KILKEN, eldest son of the Earl of FINGALL, to ELISE MARY, eldest daughter of Monsieur A. F. RIO, Chevalier of the Legion of Honour.  
Feb. 12, at St. George's, Bloomsbury, by the Rev. F. Cox, Captain FREDERICK P. SKEWIN, eldest son of Mr. RICHARD SKEWIN, of Upton Clapton, to SARAH ANNE HODGES, of Cornwall-terrace, Camden-road, fifth daughter of THOMAS HODGES, Esq., formerly of Leacon Hall, Wareham, Kent.  
Feb. 14, at the Congregational Church, Dalston, by the Rev. Clement Dukes, M.A., Mr. JOHN REDWELL, of De Beauvoir-square, to MARY, second daughter of JOHN ALEXANDER WALKER, Esq., of the Queen's-road; and on the same day, at St. John's, Hackney, by the Rev. Alexander Gordon, M.A., GEORGE DOWLING, second son of the late J. CRUSE, Esq., of Beaumont-square, to HELEN LAMBERT, youngest daughter of JOHN ALEXANDER WALKER, Esq.

### DEATHS.

Feb. 2, at Ross, Mr. E. PALMER, ironmonger, aged fifty.  
Feb. 2, at Baldock, Herts, Mrs. MARY IND, in her hundredth year. She lived to see the birth of 10 children, 69 grand-

children, 114 great grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren's children—in all 195 descendants.

Feb. 3, Mr. ROBERT T. WILKESFORCE, formerly Archdeacon of the East Riding of Yorkshire, who quitted the Protestant Church, at Albano, near Rome.

Feb. 4, at her residence, Percy-place, Bath, Mrs. JAY, widow of the late Rev. Wm. JAY, aged seventy-six.

Feb. 8, at 9, Stanley-villas, Notting-hill, WIGRAM MONEY, Esq., aged seventy-two.

Feb. 9, at Turnford, Herts, ELIA MAUDE, infant daughter of F. R. BEVAN, Esq.

Feb. 10, at Eccrick Rectory, York, SARAH BELTINA LAWLEY, eldest and sole surviving child of the late Sir ROBERT and Lady LAWLEY, of Canwell Hall, Staffordshire, sister to the late two Lords WENLOCK, and to the late Sir FRANCIS LAWLEY, aged ninety-one.

Feb. 10, at the house of his brother, Grove-hill, Camberwell, after a very short illness, EDWARD KEMBLE, Esq., aged sixty-five.

Feb. 10, at Holland-grove, Brixton, after protracted and keen suffering, CAROLINE, the beloved wife of Mr. C. W. DALTON.

Feb. 11, at Beckland, Hants, WILLIAM, son of the late APLEY PELLATT, Esq., of London, aged fifty-two.

Feb. 11, at Staines, JAMES RICKMAN, Esq., jun., last surviving son of JAMES RICKMAN, Esq., of Courland, Clapham, in his forty-second year; and, on the same evening, ALICE, second daughter of the above, aged five.

Feb. 11, CHARLES SHADWELL, Esq., of Gray's-inn, brother to the late Right Hon. Sir LANCELOT SHADWELL, Vice-Chancellor of England, aged seventy-five.

Feb. 11, Mr. HENRY POWELL, of Brain's-green, Blakeney, aged sixty-six. Mr. Powell had long been a worthy and consistent deacon of the Baptist Church, Blakeney.

Feb. 11, at Chelms Rectory, ALFRED JOHN, son of Lord and Lady WIGHTESLEY ROSS, aged twenty-three.

Feb. 12, at his residence, Lordship House, Tottenham, GEORGE STACEY, late of 300, Holborn, in his seventy-first year.

Feb. 14, at St. Helier, Jersey, WILLIAM HENRY, only surviving son of RALPH WALTERS, Esq., of Sussex-gardens, London, and Newcastle-on-Tyne, in his twenty-ninth year.

Feb. 15, at Headingley, Leeds, EDITH HALL, daughter of the Rev. G. W. CONDER, aged six months.

### Money Market, and Commercial Intelligence.

#### CITY, TUESDAY EVENING.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget was favourably received, but produced no perceptible effect in the Stock Market, which has been dull and heavy. This morning, more firmness prevailed. The closing quotations were  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. better than those of yesterday. In the other departments of the Stock Exchange general firmness also prevailed. The French Emperor's speech was favourably regarded, as breathing a spirit of peace, and indicating that no state loan will be required. Consols were 93 $\frac{1}{2}$  93 $\frac{1}{4}$  for Money, and 93 $\frac{1}{2}$  sellers for the Account. The New Threes are 94 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 94 $\frac{1}{4}$ ; and the Reduced 93 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 94. Bank Stock is firm at 216 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 218; and India Stock at 220 to 221. Exchequer Bills are par to 3s. prem. In the Discount Market, to-day, the demand for money was good, but the supply is more liberal. In exceptional cases, this morning's transactions took place in good paper a fraction below the Bank minimum. The tendency of the Paris Bourse continues decidedly favourable.

It is now estimated that the remittances of specie and bullion by the Colombo on the 20th inst. will exceed 600,000*l*. This is an unusually large sum, considering that the Colombo takes no mail for China.

The Foreign Stock Market rules rather heavy, but prices have not exhibited any very material variation. A very moderate business is reported in the Railway Share Market, but prices in almost all instances are well supported. Bristol and Exeter are at 94. Caledonian, 63 $\frac{1}{2}$  64 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Eastern Counties, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  10. Great Northern, 93 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Great Western, 68 $\frac{1}{2}$  68 $\frac{1}{4}$ . Lancashire and Yorkshire, 99 $\frac{1}{2}$  99 $\frac{1}{4}$ . Brighton, 108 to 108 $\frac{1}{2}$ . North Western, 107 $\frac{1}{2}$  108. South Western, 104 $\frac{1}{2}$  105. Midland, 83 $\frac{1}{2}$  83 $\frac{1}{4}$ . North Eastern, Berwick, 86 $\frac{1}{2}$  87. Shropshire Union, 50; and South Devon, 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The Foreign and Colonial Lines rule steady Great Luxembourg, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Namur and Liege, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Great Western of Canada, 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

British, Foreign, and Colonial Mining Shares are very inactive, and at quite nominal values. Joint-Stock Bank and Miscellaneous Shares have slightly improved.

The accounts of the manufacturing trade of the country for the past week show less dullness at Manchester, and a full business in most other districts. At Birmingham, however, many branches of production are affected by the extraordinary prices of copper and tin. In the latter there has been a further average advance of 3s. per cwt. The closing of the works of Fox, Henderson, and Co., which at one period gave employment to 2,000 persons, will occasion inconvenience; but the demand for hands in other quarters is sufficient to prevent any permanent distress. At Nottingham there has been great activity both in hosiery and lace. For the former the American orders are very large, and the stocks of the latter are very light. In the Yorkshire woollen trade the transactions have likewise been numerous, and prices are advancing. At Bradford the failure has been announced of Jennings and Hargreaves, stuff merchants, with liabilities for 65,000*l*, and assets which, it is hoped, may realize a dividend of about 13s. 9d.

In the general business of the port of London, during the past week, there was increased activity, the importations of tea being unusually large. The total of ships reported inward was 128, being 36 more than in the previous week. These included 13 with cargoes of corn, 11 with cargoes of sugar, and 9 with cargoes of tea, the latter comprising 101,411 packages, in addition to 5,867 bales of silk, also from China. The number of vessels cleared outward was 110, showing an increase of 22, including 14 in ballast.

The total number of ships on the berth loading for the Australian colonies is 68. Of these 9 are for Adelaide, 4 for Geelong, 4 for Hobart Town, 2 for Launceston, 4 for Melbourne, 5 for New Zealand, 1 for Port Phillip, 17 for Sydney, 1 for Swan River, and 1 for Wellington.

The departures from the port of London for the Australian colonies during the past week comprised nine vessels—three for Sydney, two for Port Phillip, one for Adelaide, one for Launceston, one for Auckland, and one for Portland Bay—with an aggregate capacity of 5,733 tons. The rates of freight exhibit a further tendency to decline.

#### PROGRESS OF THE STOCKS DURING THE WEEK.

	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per Ct. Consols	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
Consols for Account	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{4}$	94 $\frac{1}{4}$	94 $\frac{1}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 per Cent. Red.	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{4}$	94 $\frac{1}{4}$	94 $\frac{1}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
New 3 per Cent.	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{4}$	94 $\frac{1}{4}$	94 $\frac{1}{4}$
Annuitants	—	—	—	—	—	—
India Stock	—	216	218	219	221	221
Bank Stock	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exchequer-bills.	3 pm	par	1 pm	3 pm	4 pm	3 pm
India Bonds	—	—	—	—	2 dis	—
Long Annuitants	—	—	—	—	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$

### The Gazette.

(From Friday's Gazette.)

An Account pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, c. 32, for the week ending on Saturday, the 7th day of Feb., 1857.

#### ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued . . . . .	£23,767,500	Government Debt. . . . .	£11,015,100
		Other Securities. . . . .	3,459,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion . . . . .	9,292,500
		Silver Bullion. . . . .	—
	£23,767,500		£23,767,500

#### BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital. . . . .	£14,553,000	Government Securities (including Dead Weight Annuity) . . . . .	£11,524,457
Rest . . . . .	3,514,949	Other Securities. . . . .	17,901,683
Public Deposits. . . . .	6,554,253	Notes. . . . .	4,894,295
Other Deposits . . . . .	9,596,808	Gold and Silver Coin . . . . .	886,746
Seven Day and other Bills . . . . .	788,171		
	£35,007,181		£35,007,181

Feb. 12, 1857.

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

#### Friday, February 13, 1857.

##### BANKRUPTS.

PAUL, J., Bedford and St. Mary-axe, City, corn dealer, Feb. 27, March 30; solicitor, Mr. Henderson, Leadenhall-street.  
KINDRED, P., Framlingham, Suffolk, miller, Feb. 24, March 31; solicitors, Messrs. Aldridge and Bromley, Gray's-inn; and Mr. Baker, Ipswich.  
HAWKEY, W. E., Sykes-terrace, Mile End-road, tailor, Feb. 27, March 31; solicitors, Messrs. Philpot and Greenhill, Gracechurch-street.  
DANGERFIELD, J., sen., Kirtley, otherwise Kirtley, Suffolk, builder, Feb. 24, March 31; solicitors, Messrs. Philpot and Greenhill, Gracechurch-street.  
SMITH, J., Staplehurst, Kent, corn dealer, Feb. 24, March 7; solicitors, Messrs. Lawrence and Co., Aldermanbury.  
SCHERMAN, A., George-street, Minorities, and New Broad-street, City, general merchant, Feb. 24, March 31; solicitors, Messrs. Solomon, Finsbury-place, City.  
GANS, S., Essex-street, Strand, importer of fancy goods, Feb. 24, March 26; solicitors, Messrs. Sydney and Son, Finsbury-circus.  
BRYANT, W., Stratford, Essex, boot maker, Feb. 24, March 26; solicitor, Mr. Heath, Artillery-place, Finsbury.  
CORNWELL, T., King-street, Regent-street, carver, and Roydon, Essex, farmer, Feb. 26, March 27; solicitor, Mr. Chidley, Basinghall-street.  
LANGRIDGE, J. W., Birmingham, stay maker, Feb. 28, March 21; solicitors, Messrs. Harrison and Wood, Birmingham.  
LEES, J., Birmingham, brick maker, Feb. 28, March 21; solicitor, Mr. East, Birmingham.  
CAULTON, G., Radford, Nottinghamshire, common brewer, Feb. 24, March 24; solicitors, Messrs. Bowley and Ashwell, Nottingham; and Messrs. Hodgson and Allen, Birmingham.  
FOX, Sir C., and HENDERSON, J., Smithwick, Staffordshire; New-street, Spring-gardens, Westminster; and Fore-street, Limehouse, engineers, March 2 and 30; solicitors, Messrs. Colmore and Beale, Birmingham.  
WATTS, J., Norton, Saint Philips, Somersetshire, innholder, Feb. 23, March 23; solicitor, Mr. Miller, Selwood, Somersetshire.  
MCCLYMONT, G., jun., Bradford, Yorkshire, draper, March 9, April 6; solicitors, Mr. Robson, Halifax; and Messrs. Carlas and Cadworth, Leeds.  
PARKER, M., Kingston-upon-Hull, ironmonger, March 4, April 1; solicitor, Mr. Mends, Hull.  
DAVISON, J., Kingston-upon-Hull, anchor maker, Feb. 25, March 26; solicitors, Messrs. Wells and Smith, Kingston-upon-Hull.  
CLAYTON, C. H., Liverpool, milliner, Feb. 26, March 20; solicitor, Mr. Dodge, Liverpool.  
STEPANOFF, M., Liverpool, merchant, Feb. 27, March 19; solicitors, Messrs. Little and Bardswell, Liverpool.  
PORTER, P., Liverpool, cotton broker, Feb. 27, March 19; solicitor, Mr. Tyrer, Liverpool.  
FOX, C., Hulme, Manchester, corn dealer, Feb. 26, March 19; solicitor, Mr. Partington, Manchester.  
CAVENS, G., Carlisle, Cumberland, Jeweller, Feb. 23, March 31; solicitors, Mr. Watson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and Mr. Unwin, Clement's-lane, Lombard-street.  
CALVERT, W., and CALVERT, W., jun., Sunderland, hardwaremen, Feb. 23, March 27; solicitors, Messrs. Harle and Co., Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

#### Tuesday, February 17, 1857.

##### BANKRUPTS.

FOSCOLO, P. G., Dunster-court, Mincing-lane, corn merchant, Feb. 26, April 2; solicitors, Messrs. Lawrence and Co., Old Jewry-chambers.  
FERRILL, R., Aldermanbury, City, commission agent, Feb. 24, March 26; solicitors, Messrs. Venning and Naylor, Tokenhouse-yard.  
BUTT, T., Littlehampton, Sussex, ironmonger, Feb. 26, April 3; solicitors, Messrs. Linklater and Co., Sise-lane, Buckersbury.  
INGERSBET, G., The Mall, Notting-hill, builder, Feb. 27, April 3; solicitor, Mr. Lindus, South-square, Gray's-inn.  
SMITH, J., Staplehurst, Kent, corn dealer, Feb. 24, April 7; solicitors, Messrs. Lawrence and Co., Old Jewry-chambers.  
CAMPIN, H., Watling-street, City, warehouseman, Feb. 27, April 7; solicitors, Messrs. Reed and Co., Friday-street, City.  
BLACKMORE, A., High-street, Shoreditch, hosier, March 4, April 6; solicitors, Messrs. Linklater and Co., Sise-lane, City.  
MARTIN, F., Brighton, innkeeper, March 3 and 31; solicitors, Messrs. Grane and Co., Bedford-row.  
WALKER, J., Walsall, Staffordshire, bridge cutter, Feb. 28, March 21; solicitors, Mr. Sheldon, Wednesbury; and Mr. Knight, Birmingham.  
BARNETT, T., Ironbridge, Shropshire, butcher, March 4 and 28; solicitor, Mr. Knight, Birmingham.  
MASCALL, J., Wolverhampton, grocer, Feb. 28, March 21; solicitor, Mr. Kitson, Wolverhampton; and Mr. Knight, Birmingham.



WATTS, J., Norton St. Philips, Somersetshire, innholder, Feb. 23, March 23; solicitor, Mr. Miller, Frome Selwood, Somersetshire.

WANK, W. A., Highworth, Wiltshire, grocer, March 2 and 31; solicitors, Mr. Brown, Swindon; and Mr. Briceaux, Bristol.

ROBINSON, W., Mithorpe, Westmoreland, licensed victualler, Feb. 26, March 26; solicitors, Mr. Wilson, Kendal; and Mr. Hoyle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

NEVILL, A. A., Liverpool, merchant, March 3, April 6; solicitors, Messrs. Evans and Son, Liverpool.

RAYMOND, T. F., Liverpool, commission merchant, March 2, April 6; solicitor, Mr. Booker, Liverpool.

SANKEY, J., Salford, Lancashire, wheelwright, March 2 and 23; solicitors, Messrs. Vickers and Diggle, Manchester.

## Markets.

## CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, Feb. 16.

We had a large arrival of American flour last week, but the supplies of wheat, as well as foreign as English, were moderate, and to this day's market there was very little addition. The trade was slow to-day, and for English wheat last week's prices were barely maintained; of foreign there were buyers, but at prices rather under the rates asked, consequently little was sold. Norfolk flour sold at 40s per sack; and American went off slowly at irregular prices. Barley in rather better demand, but prices without change. Beans and peas neglected. Although the arrivals of oats were moderate there was little inclination to purchase, and prices remained nominally the same as on Monday last. Linseed and cakes fully as dear. Clover-seeds firm at very full prices.

BRITISH.		FOREIGN.	
Wheat—		Danzig.....	72 to 86
Essex and Kent, Red	56 to 68	Königsberg, Red.....	58 to 70
Essex and Kent, White	58 to 74	Pomeranian, Red.....	50 to 74
Lincoln, Norfolk, and		Rostock.....	50 to 74
Yorkshire Red	56 to 64	Danish and Holstein	48 to 50
Scotch	38 to 40	East Friesland.....	50 to 52
Rye	38 to 40	Petersburg.....	52 to 64
Barley, malting	46 to 48	Riga and Archangel	—
Distilled	38 to 40	Polish Odessa.....	54 to 56
Malt (pale)	74 to 76	Marianopolis.....	60 to 64
Beans, Mazagan.....	36 to 44	Egyptian.....	46 to 48
Peas.....	—	American (U.S.).....	60 to 70
Pigeon.....	—	Barley, Pomeranian	36 to 40
Peas, White.....	42 to 44	Königsberg.....	—
Grey.....	38 to 40	Danish.....	36 to 42
Maple.....	38 to 40	East Friesland.....	26 to 30
Boilers.....	40 to 42	Egyptian.....	24 to 28
Tares (English 50s)	48 to 50	Odessa.....	24 to 28
Foreign.....	36 to 38	Beans—	
Oats (English feed)	22 to 24	Horse.....	34 to 36
Flour, town made, per		Pigeon.....	38 to 40
sack of 280 lbs.	54 to 56	Egyptian.....	34 to 36
Linseed, English.....	64 to 66	Peas, White.....	42 to 44
Black Sea.....	64 to 66	Oats—	
Hempseed.....	40 to 42	Dutch.....	19 to 26
Canaryseed.....	68 to 70	Jahde.....	17 to 26
Cloverseed, per cwt. of		Danish.....	17 to 22
112 lbs. English.....	50 to 76	Danish, Yellow feed	22 to 27
German.....	52 to 68	Swedish.....	34 to 36
French.....	58 to 70	Petersburg.....	23 to 26
American.....	60 to 72	Flour, per bar. of 196 lbs.	
Linseed Cakes, 150 lbs to 160 lbs		New York.....	28 to 34
Rape Cakes, 64 lbs to 74 lbs per ton		Spanish, per sack.....	56 to 60
Hempseed, 100 lbs to 120 lbs per last		Carawayseed.....	36 to 40

WEDNESDAY.—Since Monday, only a moderate supply of English wheat has come to hand coastwise and by land carriage; hence, the show of samples here to-day, was limited. For most descriptions, we had a slow inquiry, but no change took place in the quotations. Foreign wheat—the supply of which was by no means large—realised full prices; but the business doing in it was only moderate. Foreign cargoes were rather dull. We had a fair inquiry for barley, at full currencies; but the demand for malt was very inactive. We had a fair demand for oats, and late rates were well supported. Beans, peas, and flour—the receipts of which were only moderate—changed hands slowly, on former terms.

SEEDS, LONDON, Monday, Feb. 16.—One steamer arrived on Friday with over 2,000 bales cloverseed from Hamburg, and another on Saturday with several small lots; there have also been some imports from America. Choice qualities of red have commanded very full prices, and there has been more demand for secondary qualities, such as those from Germany, up to 72s. White qualities are not so much run after, and about support recent rates. There was a moderate quantity of English red offering, and prices range high for prime sorts. Trefoil remains firm and saleable; really choice is per cwt. dearer. Canary has sold slightly, Kentish at 68s to 69s; choice 70s per cwt. All descriptions of grass seeds were much inquired for, and commanded generally considerably higher prices, from short quantities offering, the very favourable weather for field-work having brought forward numerous and general buyers.

BREAD.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 8s to 9s; of household ditto, 7s to 8s per 4 lbs. loaf.

BUTCHERS' MEAT, LONDON, Monday, Feb. 16.—The show of foreign calves here to-day was seasonably good; but that of beasts and sheep was limited. From our own grazing districts, the receipts of beasts fresh up to-day were only moderate, but their general quality was very prime. For the finest breeds there was a fair demand, at prices quite equal to Monday last, the best Scots selling at 5s per 8 lbs; otherwise the trade was less active, and in some instances prices were a shade in favour of buyers. The arrivals from Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire amounted to about 2,000 Scots and shorthorns; from other parts of England, 300 of various breeds; from Scotland, 350 Scots; and from Ireland, 120 oxen. We were again very scantily supplied with sheep, but their general quality was prime. There was increased firmness in the mutton trade, and prices may be considered 2d per 8 lbs higher than on this day so-nigh. Our top quotation for Downs is now 5s 8d per 8 lbs; but some very prime lots went at even higher quotations. Calves were in moderate supply and fair request, at last week's currency. The highest price was 5s 6d per 8 lbs. In pigs only a limited business was transacted; prices, however, were supported.

Per 8 lbs to sink the offal.				Per 8 lbs by the carcass.			
Inf. coarse beasts	3	4	5	Pr. coarse woolled	5	6	7
Second quality	3	4	5	Prime Southdown	5	6	7
Prime large oxen	4	5	6	Lgs. coarse calves	3	4	5
Prime Scots, &c.	4	5	6	Prime small	3	4	5
Coarse inf. sheep	4	5	6	Large hogs	3	4	5
Second quality	4	5	6	Neat sm. porkers	4	5	6

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, Feb. 16.—The supplies of meat on sale here, slaughtered in the metropolis, are very moderate, but we continue to receive extensive arrivals from the Continent. Generally speaking, the demand is steady, at our quotations.

Per 8 lbs by the carcass.				Per 8 lbs by the carcass.			
Superior beef	3	4	5	Inf. mutton	3	4	5
Middle ditto	3	4	5	Middle ditto	4	5	6
Prime large do.	4	5	6	Prime ditto	4	5	6
Do. small do.	4	5	6	Veal	3	4	5
Large pork	3	4	5	Small pork	4	5	6

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday, Feb. 16.—With fine and mild weather during the past week, we had a slow demand for Irish butter, and the business transacted in all kinds was on a limited scale, at about our last quotations, with no indications of improvement. Foreign attracted the chief attention, at no

noticeable change in value, except best Dutch, which being in short supply was 2s dearer. Bacon, in the absence of speculation, and with liberal supplies, relapsed into dulness, and was sparingly dealt in; and except for mild cure, of select quality, previous rates were not well supported. Hams were nearly stationary in demand and value. Lard was not so much in request, and is to 2s cheaper.

PRICES OF BUTTER, CHEESE, HAMS, &c.			
Erieand, per cwt.....	120 to 130	Cheshire, per cwt.....	64 to 74
Kiel.....	120 to 128	Cheddar.....	74 to 84
Dorset.....	120 to 124	Double Gloucester.....	60 to 74
Carlisle.....	110 to 120	Single ditto.....	—
Waterford.....	—	York Hams.....	90 to 112
Cork (new).....	108 to 116	Westmoreland ditto.....	104 to 110
Elmerick.....	108 to 110	Irish ditto.....	96 to 100
Sligo.....	104 to 114	Wiltshire Bacon (cured).....	70 to 76
Fresh, per dozen.....	14 to 16	Irish..... (green).....	64 to 68

SUGAR.—The market has been quiet to-day. 170 hhds West India sold by private contract. 3,500 bags of Mauritius were offered, and all found buyers at previous rates, 50s 6d to 55s 6d. 3,500 bags of Madras were also offered and nearly all sold at a decline of 6d, 4s to 45s 6d. The refined market has been steady. Lumps, fair to fine grocery, 64s to 67s.

TEA.—The attention of the trade has almost been exclusively occupied by the duty question, and we are without transactions to report. Quotations remain unaltered.

CORRET.—The public sales went off freely at very full prices. 450 packages Mocha sold at 75s 6d to 81s. 190 bags Bahia, 1st and 2nd class, damaged, 51s 6d to 52s 6d; and 1,000 bags Nave Ceylon, at 57s 6d.

RICE.—The market is firm at yesterday's prices. The demand continues dull.

COTTON.—800 bales sold—thinly at a slight advance. Iron remains quoted 73s 6d.

INDIGO.—Sixth day: 1,980 chests passed auction, 939 withdrawn. 290 bought in, leaving 760 sold. The sale went off steadily, without any alteration in prices.

OIL.—Linseed, 42s 9d.

TALLOW.—The market has been dull at 63s on the spot and March delivery.

SALT.—330 bags of Bengal sold in public sale. Refraction 61, 47s 6d; refraction 94, 43s; refraction 97 to 31, 46s. About 3,000 bags of the Spanish shipment sold at 43s 6d to-day, and 1,000 bags on the spot from 43s to 44s.

BITUMEN OF SODA.—1,230 bags were bought in at 20s 6d.

AGROL.—111 casks of Oporto red sold at 47s 6d to 48s, and 17 casks of Madeira at 63s to 65s.

ANNATTO.—16 casks of flag were bought in at 10d to 11d.

RED WOOD.—28 tons bought in at 4s.

INDIAN LARD.—3 packages of West India sold at 2s 7d to 4s, and 36 packages of Brazil at 3s to 4s.

INDIAN LARD.—14 cases and 40 bags of Para were bought in at 1s to 10d.

In other articles no material alteration. Markets generally have been quiet to-day.

COVENT-GARDEN, Saturday, Feb. 14.—Most things continue to be well supplied, but trade is dull, though not quite so inactive as it was last week. Prices have altered very little since our last report. French saladings continue to be furnished; it consists of endive, lettuce, and barbe de capucin. Good Cornish broccolis may still be had. Rooted vegetables comprise beans, sea-kale, asparagus, and rhubarb. Cucumbers may also be obtained. Pineapples and hot-house grapes may still be purchased at last week's quotations. Peas are very dear. Apples also realise high prices. Kentish cobs fetch 130s per 100 lbs; Barcelona nuts, 20s per bushel; new Spanish and Brazil, 18s ditto; and chestnuts from 14s to 24s per bushel. Oranges are abundant. Portugal onions fetch from 2s to 3s per dozen. Potatoes have altered little since our last report. Out flowers consist of orchids, Chinese primulas, cinerarias, gardenias, violets, camellias, mignonettes, heaths, and roses.

POTATOES, BOXWOOD, and SPITALFIELDS, Monday, Feb. 16.—Since Monday last fair supplies of potatoes have come to hand coastwise and by railway. For most kinds the demand is steady, at full quotations. The imports last week were 467 bags from Schiedam, 40 from Belfast, 8 baskets from Rotterdam, and 8 sacks from Limerick. York regents, 100s to 120s; Kent and Essex ditto, 100s to 120s; Scotch ditto, 95s to 120s; ditto cups, 90s to 100s; middlings, 65s to 75s; Lincolns, 90s to 105s; blues, 90s to 105s per ton.

HOPS, BOXWOOD, Monday, Feb. 16.—The trade continues moderately active, and fine samples fully maintain their value. Other descriptions may be bought on somewhat lower terms.

WOOL, CITY, Monday, Feb. 16.—Our market is very scantily supplied with all kinds of wool. Inquiries are numerous, but the high pretensions of holders prevent business. Until the result of the approaching public sale is known, we can scarcely anticipate any positive movement in the market. Present appearances, however, are in favour of higher rates.

TALLOW, Monday, Feb. 16.—The price of tallow continues steady, at 63s per cwt on the spot, and to the 31st March, while there are sellers at 64s 6d for delivery in April, May, and June. We have more inquiry for the end of the year, at 64s 9d per cwt. Town tallow, 63s net cash; rough fat, 3s 7d per cwt.

CATTLE.				
1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.
Stock .....	38331	36932	37100	37117
Price of Yellow Cattle ..	45s 9d	45s 9d	45s 9d	45s 9d
Delivery last week .....	2013	480	2041	937
Ditto from the 1st of June ..	76746	71438	69833	43947
Arrived that week .....	—	275	176	362
Ditto from the 1st of June ..	74447	90725	63827	60322
Price of Town Tallow .....	46s 6d	61s 3d	51s 8d	53s 6d

OILS, LONDON, Feb. 16.—Lined oil has changed hands steadily, at 42s 6d per cwt on the spot. Spermin is quite as dear as last week, with a fair demand. In fish oils very little is doing. Turpentine continues dull, at the late decline.

METALS, LONDON, Saturday, Feb. 14.—There has been a moderate demand for Scotch pig iron, at 72s to 73s 6d cask. In the value of manufactured articles very little change has taken place. Tin is active; Banca, 150s; Straits, 145s to 150s; 65-mesh, 150s to 161s. Tin plates move off steadily, and prices have an upward tendency. Spelter on the spot, 30s 10s; English zinc, 34s per ton. Most other metals are unaltered.

SPIRITS, LONDON, Saturday, Feb. 14.—The transactions in rum this week have been limited, and prices have fallen 1d per gallon. Proof Lowlands, 2s 6d; East India, 2s 5d per gallon. Brandy is inactive, yet holders demand higher rates. Corn spirit is dull, at the late decline.

HAY.—SMITHFIELD, Feb. 17.—Supply large. Trade without any alteration. Prime meadow hay, 65s to 68s; superior ditto, 70s to 80s; inferior ditto, 50s to 55s; rowen, 50s to 55s; clover, 70s to 105s; second cut, 60s to 84s; straw, 20s to 28s.

HIDE AND SKIN MARKETS, Saturday, Feb. 14.

Market Hides, 56 to 64 lbs.	—	0	5	10	0	6	per lb
Ditto 64 to 72 lbs.	—	0	5	0	5	0	"
Ditto 72 to 80 lbs.	—	0	5	0	5	0	"
Ditto 80 to 88 lbs.	—	0	5	0	5	0	"
Ditto 88 to 96 lbs.	—	0	5	0	5	0	"
Ditto 96 to 104 lbs.	—	0	5	0	5	0	"
Horse Hides .....	—	9	0	10	0	0	each
Calf Skins, light .....	—	3	0	5	0	0	"
Ditto full .....	—	9	0	0	0	0	"
Polled Sheep .....	—	10	0	12	0	0	"
Kents and Half Breeds ..	—	8	0	10	0	0	"
Downs .....	—	6	0	8	0	0	"
Lambs .....	—	0	0	0	0	0	"
Shearlings .....	—	0	0	0	0	0	"

COALS, Monday.—A very heavy market, with nothing doing. Haswell's, 18s—Stewart's, 18s—Eden, 16s 6d—Wylam, 16s—Hartley's, 15s 6d—Hartlepool, 17s 6d—Chester Main, 15s 6d—Tainfield, 13s 6d—Lambton's, 14s 6d—Stewart's, 14s 6d—12s 6d. Fresh arrivals, 238; left from last day, 23; total, 261.

COTTON, LIVERPOOL, Feb. 17.—The market closed firmly yet very lamely, and prices of American are 1d per lb, and Brazil and Surat 1d per lb against the purchaser. The sales have been estimated at 10,000 bales (one-half on speculation and for export), comprising 200 Pernambuco and Maranhão, at 8d to 8½d; 500 Bahia, 8d; 1,000 Egyptian, at 8½d to 9d; and 20 Sea Islands, at 1s 4d to 1s 8d per lb. Imports since Thursday, 5,000 bales.

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THE LOSS OF HAIR.—One of the most annoying proofs of the inroads of ruthless time has been most successfully supplied by OLDRIDGE'S BALM of COLUMBIA, which has been so less remarkable than important to thousands who have experienced its powerful effects in encouraging or reproducing a fine growth of hair. Oldridge's Balm produces a beautiful crop, free the hair from dandruff, and the first application stops the falling off. Established forty years.

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To enumerate the many advantages derived by the public from the use of the Improved Patent Groats is not the intention of the Patentees; suffice it to say that, by the process of manufacture, the acidity and unpleasant flavour so generally complained of in other preparations is totally obliterated, and very superior gruel speedily made therefrom. It is particularly recommended to those of convalescent constitutions, Ladies and Children; and the healthy and strong will find it an excellent Luncheon or Supper.

The Barley, being prepared by a similar process, is as pure as can be manufactured, and will be found to produce light and nourishing Food for Infants and the Aged; and to contain all the necessary properties for making a delicious pudding. It has also the distinguishing character for making very superior Barley Water, and will be found a most excellent ingredient for thickening Soup, &c.

A report having been circulated that preparations of so white a character could not be produced from Groats and Barley alone, the Patentees have had recourse to the highest authority, viz., A. S. TAYLOR, M.D., F.R.S., &c., &c., for an analysis to establish the fact, a copy of which is subjoined:—

[COPY.]

“Chemical Laboratory, Guy's Hospital,  
February 19, 1855.

“I have submitted to a microscopical and chemical examination the samples of Barley and Groats which you have forwarded to me, and I beg to inform you that I find in them only those principles which are found in good Barley; there is no mineral or other impurity present, and from the result of my investigation, I believe them to be genuine, and to possess those nutritive properties assigned by the late Dr. Pereira to this description of food. (Signed) “A. S. TAYLOR.”

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Alto Douro Ports, at 42s. per dozen.  
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The Prize Wines of the Paris Exhibition of 1855, from the vine-clad hills of the sunny south, recommended by medical men for their purity and freedom from acidity and brandy, are offered to the public as at once the most exquisite and the lowest priced Foreign Wines that the world has seen.  
Price 2s. 4d. per Bottle, or 28s. per dozen (bottles, &c., included), to be had, for cash only, of F. W. SELLERS, 1, Chapel-place, Cavendish-square; 147, Oxford-street. Orders received at 37, Crutched-friars.

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**SOUTH AFRICAN PORT.**  
**SOUTH AFRICAN SHERRY.**  
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